



U.S. Presidential Scholars

2010 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

NATIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

June 19 – June 22, 2010

National Recognition Week and the 2010 Yearbook are Sponsored by:

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U.S. Department of Education

YoungArts

1964-2010

46 Years of Presidential Scholars



The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and celebrate some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, up to 141 American students from across the country and around the world are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation's highest honors for high school students. By presenting these young people with the Presidential Scholars' Medallion, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential.

For forty-six years, from President Lyndon Baines Johnson to President Barack Obama, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has placed more than 6,000 outstanding young achievers in the national spotlight. Initiated by President Johnson, the Presidential Scholars Program annually selects one male and one female student from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Americans living abroad, 15 at-large students, and up to 20 students in the arts on the basis of outstanding scholarship, service, leadership and creativity through a rigorous selection process administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

President Johnson opened the first meeting of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars by stating that the Program was not just a reward for excellence, but a means of nourishing excellence. The Program was intended to stimulate achievement in a way that could be "revolutionary."

During the first National Recognition Week in 1964, the Scholars participated in seminars with Secretary of State Dan Rusk, Astronaut Alan B. Sheppard, and Chief Justice Earl Warren. President Johnson challenged the Scholars to give their talents and time "in our land and in all lands to cleaning away the blight, to sweeping away the shoddiness, to wiping away the injustices and inequities of the past so that all men may live together in a great world community of decency and excellence."

Over the next decade, several changes occurred in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. In 1969, the medallion design became the Great Seal of the Nation. In 1972, the National Teacher of the Year was invited to become a Commissioner. Alumni Scholars were invited to serve as Advisors to the program. A booklet of Scholars' essays on issues facing the nation was issued by the Joint Commission on Arrangements for the Bicentennial in 1976.

In 1979, President Carter expanded the program to honor up to 20 students selected by the Commission through an artistic competition. In 1980, a compendium of Scholars' essays, poems, and musical compositions was published, following a performance by the Scholars in the National Academy of Sciences' auditorium.

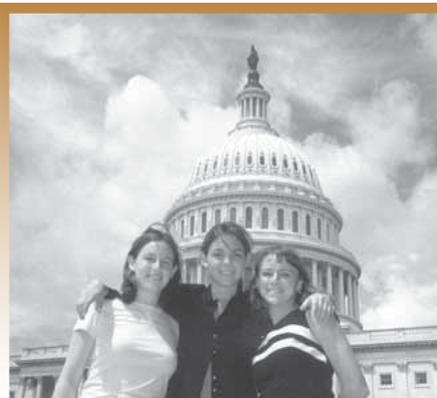
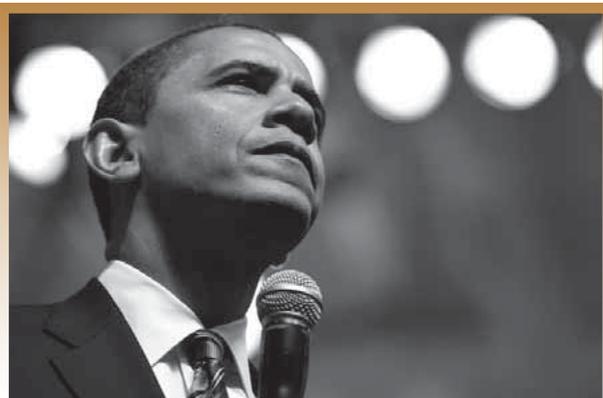
The selection process was refined in the 1980s to emphasize leadership and community service. The U.S. Department of Education produced a collection of Scholar essays on ways to improve the Nation's education system.

In 1981, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts was created and its YoungArts program began to conduct its annual artistic competition. In 1983, the Distinguished Teacher awards were created, and the twentieth year celebration of the program included an Alumni reunion and a performance by the Scholars at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The year 1994 saw the publication of a working paper by the American Association for Gifted Children, entitled "The Presidential Scholars: A Portrait of Talent and its Development." This study indicated that the support of parents and family members, and the encouragement of teachers were important factors in cultivating the gifts of the Presidential Scholars, and that the Scholars approached their experiences and challenges in ways that served to strengthen rather than impede the development of their abilities.

In 1998, the Distinguished Teacher award was renamed the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award to serve as a means for rewarding good teachers for knowledge, skill, and performance. The award marks the progress that schools, communities, educators and families are making as they work with their states and the U.S. Department of Education to improve teaching and learning, and applauds the successes of highly qualified teachers and counselors.

Upholding the values represented by the medallion they received, each class of Presidential Scholars has gone on to fulfill the bright promise they showed so early in life. Their ranks now boast attorneys and judges; leaders of business, industry and finance; senior military officers; writers of fiction, nonfiction and poetry; diplomats; members of the clergy; educators; scientists and researchers in every field; federal, state and local government officials; computer specialists; engineers; choir directors; dancers and choreographers; costume designers; physicians in diverse branches of medicine; actors, novelists; technical advisors; musicians and composers; architects and designers; visual artists; non-profit managers, fundraisers, singers, entrepreneurs, and foreign service officers. They are also family members, spouses and parents, and in their personal and professional lives are helping to instill in new generations their commitment to excellence, their high ideals, and their devotion to service. Individually, they are shining lights in their respective communities and fields of endeavor, and together they are a singular constellation of purpose, dedication, and achievement.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

June 2010

Dear 2010 Class of U.S. Presidential Scholars,

For over four decades, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars has recognized high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional achievement. Along with President Obama and Secretary Duncan, the Commissioners are delighted to honor you. You are an inspiration to your families, peers, communities, and the country, and we hope that your experiences here in Washington this week will not only salute you for your accomplishments thus far, but further inspire you to continue to make a positive mark on society.

We applaud your leadership—whether in the classroom or on the athletic field, on the stage or in a community center. We commend your altruism, active citizenship, artistic, and academic achievements. We congratulate you on your dedication, diligence, and drive for excellence. You have impressed us with the wide range of your successes; and, each of you has exhibited the potential for continued success. You have already proven yourselves to be outstanding role models, and we are confident that you will continue to inspire those around you.

Enjoy this time in Washington, DC. We encourage you to share your stories and experiences with each other, and hope that you will form relationships that will continue through the years. We are pleased to welcome you to a Presidential Scholars alumni/ae body of over 6,000 of the most motivated and accomplished citizens in the country.

Your demonstrated achievements, personal dedication and generosity of spirit carry with them a promise of future leadership that makes us optimistic about our Nation's future.

Well done, U.S. Presidential Scholars of 2010, and good luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marina C. McCarthy".

Marina C. McCarthy, Ed.D.

Chair

On behalf of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-3521
www.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html

Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the nation.

WHAT THE PRESIDENTS HAVE SAID:

“You are exceptional members of an exceptional generation. What you accomplish as individuals - what all of us accomplish as a nation - depends upon the goals and the values by which we challenge ourselves. The average and the adequate are too low as goals... Our aim must be higher; our reach must be farther; our pace must be faster. Our society and its members must aim for, and reach toward, the goals and values of excellence. I honor you for what I know you, and your generation, will achieve in the years to come.”

President Johnson

“Through [this program] we recognize and honor not only the young men and women of uncommon ability and dedication who [are this year’s] Presidential Scholars, but the tens of thousands of brilliant young Americans whom these Scholars represent and upon whose skill and vision the American future rests... The recognition you receive is more important than a prize of material value. It is something that money cannot buy. ... It is something also that you will carry with you the rest of your lives, I hope very proudly...”

President Nixon

“Your leadership, your intelligence could play a very vital role in writing the agenda for America’s third century. I trust that you will contribute, through your scholarship and your practical experience, new thought and new insights into our national wisdom. In this way you will strengthen the American democracy which all of us cherish. You have got to think big, be big, act big, dream big, and above all, accomplish big.”

President Ford

“I’m very grateful to have a chance to first of all congratulate you, and secondly to call on you for continued help. You’ve been chosen in an intensely competitive way, based on merit alone. But of course, with ... opportunity ... comes commensurate responsibility. And since [as a Presidential Scholar] you are at least a temporary public servant... I hope when you do go back home that you’ll be both incisive, questioning, ... and ... constructive.”

President Carter

“You are America’s future and symbolize her greatest hopes. ... Your country has made an enormous investment in you, and we’re relying on your energies and abilities to carry us into the next century - free and strong and prosperous. Let this award be both a recognition of past accomplishments and a challenge to excel in the years ahead. ... We’re counting on you to understand and shape a better world...”

President Reagan

“This marks the highest Scholastic honor a President can bestow, and I am honored to bestow it. For while already you have done much, I know you will do more, and not for yourselves alone but for nation and neighbor - learning, caring, helping education lead the way. ... [In] America the definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, that goes double for America’s best. Many have labored to share their knowledge with you, and you can give them no greater gift than to share your knowledge with others. ... Honor them by the lives you lead. And as you do... make ours a better, richer, more decent world.”

President George H.W. Bush

“America depends on...you to master the lessons we have recorded in the past and to accept the challenges that will confront us in the future. ...Our quality of life during the next century will depend on the creative reasoning and the firm dedication of you and your contemporaries. ... I don’t see how anybody could be concerned about the future of this great country, looking at you, reading your records, knowing what you have achieved.”

President Clinton

“I want to thank you for the contribution you make to our Nation today, and urge you on, because the contributions you’ll make tomorrow will be just as important. As we face the challenges of a new era, we must encourage all young people to develop their knowledge and skills, so that they will have the necessary foundation to thrive in a changing world. As Presidential Scholars you are role models for other young people throughout our country. I encourage you to build on your successes and continue to expand your knowledge. By using your talents to serve your communities, you help ensure a bright future for our country. ”

President George W. Bush

2010 U.S. PRESIDENT

U.S. Presidential Scholars represent excellence in education and the arts, and the promise of greatness in young people. The medallion they receive symbolizes the hope of an ever-brighter future that this Nation entrusts to each new generation. For over 45 years, this unique program has honored over 6,000 young people for their scholarship, leadership, character and civic values. Each class holds unfathomable depths of potential, creativity, and dedication to high ideals. Each year yields future Rhodes or Marshall Scholars; notable scientists, researchers, inventors and physicians; authors, journalists and artists in every medium; teachers and professors devoted to advancing world thought and fostering the talents of youth; and a myriad of attorneys, business and non-profit leaders, public servants, politicians, entrepreneurs and community pillars who will touch the world in ways barely imaginable. Alumni range from a Pulitzer Prize winner to a Tony Award nominee; from a MacArthur “genius grant” recipient to a National Poet Laureate; from the Governor of Indiana to pioneers in climate science, energy policy and Internet technology.

The members of the Class of 2010 represent diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests, and yet they are united by many common qualities. They are devoted to family and heritage; radiate a boundless energy and thirst for learning; selflessly share their spirit, strength and character with their communities, schools, civic groups, and places of worship; champion the rights of others; and set in motion their hopes of bettering the world. Some have survived life-threatening illness or daunting disability; risen above economic hardship, prejudice or persecution; or led their families and communities through trials and emergencies. As their characters are tested in the fire of great adversity, they offer inspiring proof of the power and resilience of the human spirit.

By age 18, these exceptional young people have already performed at Carnegie Hall, made scientific discoveries, launched award-winning companies, presented papers at scholarly conventions and published them in prestigious scientific journals, mastered multiple languages, founded charities, conducted research, and made scientific

ENTIAL SCHOLARS

breakthroughs. Academic, volunteer, and extracurricular interests have led them across the country and around the globe, as far away as Taiwan and Turkey. They have applied for patents to treat diseases and medical conditions; stepped forward to serve as officer candidates in the U.S. Armed Forces; won countless competitions; raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity; and gained entry to the finest universities.

They are National Merit Scholars and AP Scholars with Distinction; class officers, student body presidents and state legislative pages; Eagle and Girl Scouts; active church, synagogue, mosque and temple members; foreign language interpreters and tutors; family ranchers; budding novelists and poets, accredited culinary arts specialists, licensed pilots; Special Olympics staffers; homecoming kings and queens; nationally ranked climbers; Red Cross volunteers and Habitat for Humanity homebuilders; animal shelter workers; standup comedians; Big Brothers and Sisters; Key Club International District Governors; team captains and star athletes in sports from football to field hockey; Governors' and Mayors' honorees; martial arts experts; coaches and mentors in nearly every academic, athletic and artistic discipline; Youth Symphony concertmasters; masters of dance forms from ballet to tap to Scottish Highland; newspaper editors and journalists; top singers and musicians; and world citizens with roots or residencies in India, the Azores, China, Australia, Korea, Germany, and Nigeria. From professional dance productions to gene decoding, from painting to programming, they pursue their passions and convictions with joy, precision, and breathtaking results.

In honoring these Scholars, the President of the United States highlights the value to this Nation of our greatest "natural resource": our youth. By annually turning a national spotlight on 141 exemplary students and leaders, this program aims to encourage all American students to dare, strive, innovate, and excel; confirm a deep commitment to securing a world-class education for all U.S. youth; and affirm education's power to open doors, unlock potential, and realize dreams.



Steven Ammerman

Albuquerque, NM, La Cueva High School

College Plans: Washington University in St. Louis

A proud Albuquerque native, I have benefited from my city's inherent scientific nature. My innate inquisitiveness flourished through biology mentorships at the University of New Mexico and Sandia National Laboratories. The exposure to sophisticated equipment and techniques, such as DNA manipulation, and contact with dedicated scientists has given me faith in the potential of science to solve world problems. That faith is behind my choice of a career in biochemistry. I also love playing violin (sharpening my traits of discipline, responsibility, and ability to do team work), reading, swimming, and rock climbing. My state's socioeconomic contrasts and a desire to inspire youngsters to love reading motivate my volunteering at the local food bank and library, where I have filled several leadership positions. I have participated in my school's Science Olympiad team (heading several subcommittees) and the National and National Spanish Honor Societies. Additionally, my fluency in Spanish stimulates my interest in other cultures.



Jacob Arber

Highland Park, IL, Highland Park High School

College plans: Georgetown University

Jacob has always enjoyed languages. Born into a Russian speaking family, he speaks English and has studied Hebrew, Chinese and Spanish, yet his interest in language extends beyond simply studying them. He was a member of the speech team, captain of his school's Student Congress team, and a member of the National Forensic League, in which he has achieved the rank of Outstanding Distinction. He is also a very active participant in local politics, sitting on the Highland Park Lakefront Commission and working on a Senate campaign. In his free time, he enjoys reading everything from novels to newspapers. Jacob hopes to apply his knowledge of language and communication in the future to a career in international relations, politics or law.

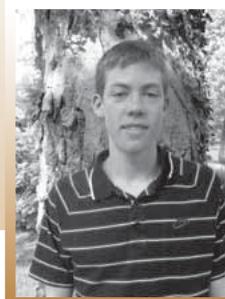


Aidan Baker

Huntsville, AR, Huntsville High School

College Plans: Stanford University

I've always been the kid with big dreams: to harness the power of the sun, to stabilize third-world economies, to be elected president (I'm running in 2044, mark your calendars!). I've also always been the kid with somewhere to go and someone to see. I have played football since the 5th grade and was elected team captain my senior year. I serve as student body president and National Honor Society president in addition to holding a variety of positions in other clubs. I have played the piano since I was five years old and now serve as my church's weekly pianist and regularly perform at retirement homes and school functions. This past summer I obtained some research experience while assisting a professor at the University of Arkansas with his work on dye-sensitized solar cells. I love to read in my free time (I'm secretly jealous of Harry Potter, because I'm not him), and I cherish every moment I get to spend relaxing with friends.



Ian Ball

Nashville, TN, University School of Nashville

College Plans: Stanford University

When I was just a toddler, I would struggle with math problems at the breakfast table and then rush outside to play soccer. Although with age I have become more focused and mature, I really haven't changed much. I still enjoy the thrill of the interconnected logic of mathematics, but I also follow politics closely, and I am interested in issues of race and class. I play on my high school soccer team, and I also compete in golf tournaments. Instead of settling into one discipline, I have taken on more and more. I run cross-country, travel around the nation for policy debate, play football, and tutor younger students in math. Not only do I develop new skills in these diverse areas, but best of all, I get to know different types of people. In every arena, I meet new people, and each one I meet is passionate about something different.



Marjorie Bateman

Mandeville, LA, Mandeville High School

College Plans: Tulane University

Described as a Renaissance woman, I have pursued learning in literature, music, history, and science. As a National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Honor, and Parish Student of the Year, I have been an innovator both inside and outside of the classroom. My love of language led me to create and serve as Editor-in-Chief of our school literary magazine. I have furthered my interest in music with the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra Symphony, with which I played clarinet at Carnegie Hall. My zeal for history led me to found my school's National World War II Quiz Bowl Team, which won this year's championship. My desire to become a physician stems from my passion for science. I have served as Science Club president, shadowed physicians, and developed a hospital pediatric treats program. For two summers, I enjoyed research internships in genetics.



Ross Beppler

*Duluth, GA, Northview High School
College Plans: Clemson University*

I am a thrill seeker at heart, and have a fascination with flight. This combination led me to parasail, hang glide, take flying lessons, and skydive. These experiences offered a unique perspective, and taught me to live in the moment. Above all, I love to be active, whether that means playing soccer or rebuilding houses for hurricane victims. The most rewarding experience of my life was traveling with my soccer team to Chile, where I was able to combine my love of sports with volunteer service, helping children in foster homes in Santiago. Remembering those children's determination to overcome adversity keeps me grounded—even when I'm up in the clouds. Whether I'm playing the tuba, coaching swim team, or just doing schoolwork, I give my best effort to match their determination. And with sustained, determined effort I hope to lead by example and inspire others to excel.



Aric Berning

*Aiken, SC, Aiken High School
College Plans: University of Pittsburgh*

I have had great opportunities to learn from a multitude of sources, and it is learning itself that motivates me to succeed. I have traveled to China and stayed with a rural family in a farming village—an experience unlike anything one could find in the United States. Interning at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital during a summer vacation solidified my career plans. As the captain of my high school's nationally-ranked Academic Team, I have had the privilege of traveling across the country to compete, while gleaned knowledge from my surroundings. Learning simply for the sake of learning would be perhaps the most desirable of all occupations, but I cannot pursue such a path without regard to the realistic demands of life. In a way, I envy the vagabond.



Nicole Black

*Shelby Township, MI, Henry Ford II High School
College Plans: Boston University*

From atop a lifeguarding tower on Stoney Creek beach, I watch the world and reflect upon my role in it. Most notably, I am a member of the two-time World Champion FIRST robotics team, the ThunderChickens. To pass on my loves of engineering and math to future generations, I mentor elementary LEGO robotics teams and tutor junior high students in math. When I am not putting my mind to work, I swim and play tennis. I have been making jewelry since childhood, and I recently began a group called "Bead the Need" to create jewelry for various charities, including a shelter for abused women. My future aspirations include double majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Science & Medical Journalism, traveling the world, saving the oceans, and discovering a cure for diabetes. My past has influenced my present, and I believe that my future will have a significant influence on the world.



Alison Boyd

*Shaker Heights, OH, Shaker Heights High School
College Plans: Ohio State University*

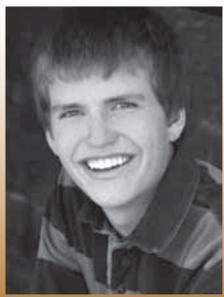
Ever since I was in kindergarten and wrote my name in yellow crayon on the rug, I have wanted to leave my mark on the world. Fortunately, I have found more positive ways to do so. Being president of my school's Interact club has given me countless opportunities to help my community through volunteering. Additionally, I have tried to make the world more beautiful through music by playing the oboe in both school and regional ensembles. At my church, I have had the opportunity to make contributions to the world through numerous mission trips, the youth council and the handbell choir. Furthermore, working in a biomedical research lab last summer helped me to discover how I can contribute to the world through a career in science. I plan to use my college years to leave my mark through volunteerism and music, and to prepare to make a difference through my future career.



Matthew Brailas

*Austin, TX, Westlake High School
College Plans: Princeton University*

I've been writing outside of school since the third grade, and see it as a defining part of my life. I wrote only fiction until my sophomore year of high school, when I started transitioning into poetry. I love poetry because they are no assumptions going in—it can become whatever I want it to become. Whenever I used to write short stories I would always try to imitate someone else, or to make them sound like I thought they ought to sound. Poetry, for me, is more a blank slate. I can organize a poem however my mind organizes it at the moment of creation, which makes it more genuine.



Samuel Brinton

*Salt Lake City, UT,
East High School*

College Plans: Harvard College

The youngest of seven children, Sam Brinton is a young man who has diverse interests and a zest for life. He is just as comfortable playing varsity tennis as he is doing Alzheimer's research in a science lab. Sam speaks Arabic and Spanish and is mastering Russian. He has utilized his abilities in these languages while giving service at an orphanage in Peru, a leper colony in Egypt, and a youth camp in St. Petersburg, Russia. As Student Body President of his high school, Sam has the opportunity to plan and implement activities that meet the needs of students who speak 35 different languages at the school. He sings in Madrigals, a cappella, and has appeared in every school musical for the past three years. As an accomplished cellist, Sam has traveled to five continents with his musical family, who were featured on the cover of an international magazine.



Evan Brown

*Guilford, CT, Guilford
High School*

College Plans: American University

I have chosen to attend the Honors Program at American University and major in political science and economics in the fall of 2010. A devoted follower of politics, I am usually the first to start a debate. After college, I hope to work in some aspect of public policy. As an avid sports fan, I have played golf on my high school team for four years, and am also a fan of the New York Yankees and the New York Jets. In my free time, I participate in Pilgrim Fellowship, a non-denominational volunteer group that goes to an impoverished area of the country over April vacation to build homes and repair things for the less fortunate. Over the last four years, we have traveled to Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and back to Tennessee. I am also the editor-in-chief of the school newspaper.



Ethan Budreau

*Cedar Falls, IA, Hudson
High School*

College Plans: University of Iowa

Living in rural Iowa with my parents and two younger siblings, I have many favorite activities including jet skiing, golfing, and playing with my dogs. I always do my best to remember the opportunities and guidance that my parents have given me, and in return, my main goal in life is to be a proper role model for my sister and brother. Also, my friends are a large part of my life. They are always there for me and always there to have fun. School, sports, and other extracurriculars are very important to me, and I like to be fairly involved around my community. Lastly, I have a strong foundation in religion, and I continually attempt to align myself with my values.



Madeleine Bulkow

*Anchorage, AK, Robert
Service High School*

College Plans: Scripps College

Madeleine has lived in Alaska all her life and loves the mountains, snow, and extreme daylight there. She has always wanted to discover how things work, which has led to her interest in subjects from psychology to philosophy to physics. The lattermost is her favorite, since it incorporates her passion for mathematics. She hopes to contribute to the world through either the clean energy or space industries, and contribute to her community through continued involvement in her church. Madeleine loves reading and drawing, and has recently written and illustrated a children's picture book, which she is attempting to get published.



Ann Burrell

*Ridgeland, MS, St. Andrew's
Episcopal School*

College Plans: Columbia University

I am most happy when being challenged. Athletics are cathartic for me, and whether it be practicing on a yoga mat or leading the Varsity Swim Team as captain, I enjoy spending my time with others who have fun while working hard at what they love. I've also enjoyed pushing myself academically in a variety of interesting classes and have been inducted into the Cum Laude Society and selected as an All-Star Scholar of Mississippi. Growing up in a small town has fueled my desire to explore the world, and living with a host family in Argentina last summer taught me that friendship knows no cultural or language barriers. My favorite way to spend time is serving as a counselor to mentally and physically challenged campers at Camp Bratton Green. I plan to become a physician and find ways to treat and prevent infectious diseases on a global scale.



Nicole Cacoza

Washington, DC, Woodrow Wilson Senior High School

College Plans: Brown University

I am a District of Columbia Public School student with a broad range of interests. I play soccer, write plays, and have a scuba diving certification. I watch Glee religiously and unashamedly. I am undecided about my future career, though I will probably major in the social sciences or humanities. I would like to continue to study Spanish, a language that I picked up in middle school, and has since become one of my favorite subjects thanks to some excellent teachers. I traveled to Asunción, Paraguay last summer in order to practice my language skills and do community service work at various schools. I am looking forward to the new challenges of college.



Anne Cai

Mt. Pleasant, SC, Porter-Gaud School

College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Princeton University

I'm the chief editor of the school newspaper and literary magazine, NCTE Winner, Coca-Cola Scholar, Youth Orchestra and All-State concertmaster, Intel STS Semifinalist, Research Science Institute Scholar, seven-time violin and piano soloist with professional orchestras, MTNA state winner, quiz bowl and math team captain, piano state winner, Youth-in-Government Justice and Outstanding Attorney...but that dry laundry list leaves only a smattering of flat impressions. I'm a genetics and neuroscience lover who writes free-verse poetry, an infamous klutz who avidly plays Ultimate Frisbee and proudly survived Outward Bound, a classical violinist and pianist who has attempted improvisational jazz, a formerly shy girl who is now an enthusiastic debater and leads a crowd of people knocking on doors on Day 1 of summer camps, an only child who has found a plethora of siblings among at-risk inner-city children at Rise Up And Read, and a talkative person who would gladly listen to others' stories and discover new interests while delving deeply into my passions.



Joseph Calland

New Albany, OH, New Albany High School

College Plans: Northwestern University

An avid weightlifter who also happens to excel at making balloon animals and woodworking, Joe is rarely able to find sufficient time in the day for all his plans. He has always worked hard to balance the many aspects of his life, including athletics (football and baseball), clubs, and leisure. A prominent member of Ohio's Model United Nations, the local chapter of the National Honor Society, and his principal's service-based "Eagle Ambassador" club, Joe also works on his own with Habitat for Humanity, through which he independently built a playground in a new Habitat development. In his free time, Joe frequently reads, watches movies with his friends, and rides his mountain bike. He is currently working on his atrocious golf game, which hopefully will someday be a useful skill in the business world, where he intends to work.



Martin Camacho

St. Paul, MN, Central High School
College Plans: Harvard College

Even though he's a mathematician at heart, Martin has always enjoyed branching out – his many interests include academics, music, sports, and volunteering. After entering high school at age 10, he proceeded to found his high school's quiz bowl team, leading it to three nationals, and he has served as captain of his school's science bowl and math teams. A three-time USA Mathematical Olympiad qualifier, Martin has taken classes full-time at the University of Minnesota for the past two years. He's attended the International Science and Engineering Fair and the Research Science Institute through two mathematical research projects. As a pianist, he's topped several area competitions. In his free time (which, surprisingly, abounds), Martin plays on his high school's Ultimate Frisbee team, teaches Sunday School at his local parish, and enjoys reading, linguistics, and computer programming. In the future, he'd love to be a research professor in mathematics.



Luke Celenza

Bedford, NY, Fox Lane High School

College Plans: The Juilliard School

Luke grew up surrounded by music and started studying classical piano at age 5. Jazz caught his ear and, at age 12, he was accepted into the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Jazz Division. In 2009 and 2010, this MSM combo won the Charles Mingus Competition and he received the Outstanding Piano Soloist Award. He began playing with The New York Youth Symphony's Jazz Band Classic, and was awarded the Director's Award in 2008. He has also won a DownBeat Student Music Award for an outstanding performance. Twice he has participated in the Dave Brubeck Institute Summer Jazz Colony and the Grammy Jazz Ensemble and has also been part of the Vail Jazz Workshop. Through these stellar jazz music programs, Luke has had the opportunity to play with Joe Lovano, Geoffrey Keezer, Rich Perry, Dick Oatts, Cassandra Wilson and others. He currently studies with Jeremy Manasia and Michel Camilo.



Bobby Chen

*Newton, MA, Phillips Academy
College Plans: Columbia University
& The Juilliard School*

As both a devoted student and aspiring classical cellist, Bobby enjoys balancing these two great passions. His travels as a solo performer have garnered him accolades on the state, national, and international stages as winner of young artist competitions throughout New England and even international festivals such as the Stulberg, YoungArts, and Johansen Competitions. Bobby's greatest joy is playing music with others who share his passion through chamber music and orchestral ensembles. His musical endeavors also inspire him to share with the community, teaching free cello lessons through the Andover-Lawrence String Teaching Program. This community dedication has also led him to pursue projects with Rustic Pathways and Habitat for Humanity, constructing hurricane-sturdy houses in post-Katrina New Orleans. While academics and music keep him busy, Bobby loves playing basketball, soccer, and running track in his spare time.



Lynelle Chen

*Kokomo, IN, Park Tudor School
College Plans: Harvard College*

I love to laugh and I believe that happiness is the best part of life. Laughter is one of my favorite sounds and I think it can make any situation better. When I was younger, I used to love to watch cooking shows on PBS on Saturday mornings instead of cartoons. Father Dominic was the first one who inspired me to aim for culinary mastery, and while I had more failures than successes in my youth, I didn't give up and would consider myself much closer to my dream of culinary mastery.



Diana Chin

*Barrington, RI, Barrington High School
College Plans: Princeton University*

Diana loves music and has been playing cello for over twelve years. She also enjoys playing on the tennis team and being an avid member of too many clubs at her school, with leading roles in Mock Trial, FBLA, Chinese Club, Math Team, Science Olympiad, and the American Computer Science League. A look at the latter half of this list may hint at the fact that she often enjoys letting out her inner math and science geek and will probably pursue engineering in the future. During the school year, she works regularly as a math tutor and often volunteers at a nearby animal shelter. She also got the chance to brave the heat and spend the past summer volunteering in Taiwan (where all her relatives live) where she taught English to disadvantaged kids living in rural areas. In her free time, she loves watching movies with her friends or family.



Derek Christensen

*Parker, SD, Parker High School
College Plans: University of Nebraska, Lincoln*

I have always been a naturally curious person who enjoys discovering how things work. As a child, I enjoyed taking apart toys and attempting to put them back together, which led to an interest in engineering. After attending several engineering camps, electrical engineering piqued my interest the most and has brought me into the realm of electrical engineering as my career choice. I have also attended an aeronautical engineering camp where I was able to fly an airplane for the first time. The result of this camp was a love for flying, and in June of 2009 I started flight lessons in a Cessna 150. As a student with Cystic Fibrosis, I have faced my share of struggles. This includes fighting to receive the medical certificate necessary to solo. I plan to acquire my pilot's license and enjoy the freedom of flight the rest of my life.



Maesen Churchill

*Lincoln, NE, Lincoln East High School
College Plans: Stanford University*

At Prairie Hill Learning Center, where I went to preschool, there is a chicken coop and a compost pile outside the main building, and children have weekly duties such as gathering eggs and feeding the horses. My interest in ecology and environmental science began there. During the summer of 2008, I worked at University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Entomology Hall. Last summer I had the opportunity to conduct my own entomological research at MIT through Research Science Institute. I also love the recreational side of ecology, by enjoying the nature trails here in Nebraska, fishing, and keeping my very own hive of bees. In addition to ecology, I love extemporaneous speaking, math competitions, journalism, shoe shopping, and listening to Lady Gaga. One of the most rewarding activities in my high school experience has been coaching Special Olympics basketball and tennis teams. I now look forward to studying biological engineering at Stanford University.



Lauren Coleman

*Franklin, TN, University School of Nashville
College Plans: Princeton University*

I share certain qualities with my family members in Alabama and the people in my hometown, Nashville. We are warm, friendly, dynamic, and unique. I love creative writing and enjoy serving as Co-Editor-in-Chief of my school's literary magazine. While I mostly write poetry, I like to write screen plays as well. I am committed to volunteering and especially to working with children. Last summer I volunteered at a school and an orphanage in Cambodia. For three years, I have tutored students at a day-and-after-care center and volunteered as an aide in a second grade classroom at my school. I am also the Treasurer of the senior class and the Gay-Straight Alliance at my school. Academically, I enjoy learning about everything, but I am particularly interested in studying languages and literature. My long-term interest is in an academic career, and I plan to remain a poet for life. In my spare time, I go to concerts and cook vegetarian food.



Daniel Comeaux

*Lafayette, LA, Lafayette High School
College Plans: The University of Chicago*

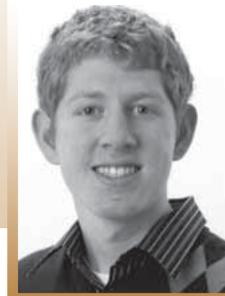
When I travel outside of Louisiana, I am reminded of my heritage. "Koh-me-ux? How do you say your name?" many people ask me. The answer is simpler than it may appear: "Coe-Moe." This link to my French roots wanders with me, from the National Science Bowl to the Bands of America Grand National Championship. However, my Cajun ancestry does not exclusively define me. Indeed, I am also physics loving, politics obsessing, trumpet playing, service giving, and above all, knowledge seeking. Whether I am delving into the minutiae of particle physics or attempting to understand the irrationalities of political dynamics, I have yet to find a problem for which I do not crave the answer. Above all other aspects of my being, what truly defines me is that even though I know I will never uncover all of these answers, I do know that I will always find joy in the search.



Abbee Cox

*Lawton, OK, MacArthur High School
College Plans: Columbia University*

As a proud Okie, but city girl at heart, I cannot wait to move to NYC this fall. Politics is my passion, which I have pursued as a state legislative page, Girls State Attorney General, and the student spokesperson for a local school bond campaign. I am also dedicated to community service, with over 500 recorded Key Club service hours. As student body vice president, I organized the most successful blood drive in my school's history. The best experience of my life thus far was the United States Senate Youth Program. As a six-year quiz bowl team captain and a state medaling Academic Decathlete, I'm a proud nerd. On a more personal note, I am a fan of everyday life and all the little things that make it beautiful. I love writing and receiving handwritten letters. I sing and dance pretty much everywhere I go, though I'm dreadful at both.



David Crouse

*Ponder, TX, Crouse Home School
College Plans: Michigan State University*

As a child, David enjoyed building with Legos, a hobby that inspired him to pursue engineering. He has never stopped building, creating, and inventing. He designed and built a balancing robot for Baylor University and developed a remote laboratory solution for the University of North Texas. He is especially proud of the wireless heart monitor he is developing at UNT and the bipedal robot he helped design for Michigan State University. David was named state champion and national quarterfinalist in the AAA Travel Challenge. He earned the Siemens Award for Advanced Placement and was declared a National AP Scholar and a National Merit Scholar. David is an officer in the Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, and is pursuing his pilot license. Since the age of ten, David has volunteered for Shoes for Orphan Souls, an organization that provides shoes for orphans in 68 countries.



Marissa Dearing

*Potomac, MD, Maret School
College Plans: Yale University*

I am passionate about learning, about people, about life. When a subject fascinates me, I read voraciously, whether it's Oliver Sacks on neuroscience or Susan Sontag on photography. I relish the challenge of mastering languages, immersing myself in new alphabets, grammatical structures, and literature. Whether it is the beauty of Arabic calligraphy, the depth of expression in Spanish literature, the poetic allure of Latin, or the musicality of Greek, I am captivated by language. I am thrilled by exploring literature and the role it has played in different cultures, as well as how culture has influenced literature. I immerse myself in art and photography and find it difficult to tear myself away. I served as co-editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, senior editor of the literary and visual arts magazine, and as a tutor with the Latino Student Fund. I hope to pursue a career in international law or diplomacy.



Bryan Dongre

*Brookfield, WI, Brookfield Central High School
College Plans: Princeton University*

My life picture is composed of my passion for science and technology, ranging from “green” automotive innovations to biomedical research. I have an insatiable desire to learn and explore new horizons, which has propelled me to realize my full potential—be it performing viola in Carnegie Hall or before hospital residents, participating in national debate tournaments, representing Wisconsin at the U.S. Senate Youth Program in Washington D.C., being nominated for the Junior Achievement Young Entrepreneur Award, or being a Coca-Cola Scholar and first place winner for the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student scholarship. My volunteer service with the United Way Youth Action Board, National Honor Society Executive Board and TYRO Editorial Board has inspired me to serve as a leader, role model and friend. I am excited about pursuing a career in engineering and following my belief that every accomplishment begins with a decision to try.



Darren Eldredge

*APO, AE, Vilseck High School
College Plans: Undecided*

Camels, fighter jets, tanks, rockets, terrorists, explosions, stary nights, northern lights, kilts and kebabs. My father has been employed by DODDS since 1979, and I have spent nearly my entire life in various military communities overseas. I was born in Canada, I spent a year in the Azores, I grew up in Turkey and Italy, I have lived in Germany, and soon I’ll call Spain my home. As a varsity captain of the soccer, tennis and wrestling teams, I have learned not only to like sports, but to enjoy teaching my teammates. I am the first bass vocalist in the 2010 DODDS-Europe Honor Choir and I play the alto saxophone, but my passion is for the piano. I love the thrills of life, from discovery and improvisation to pure adrenaline.



Matthew Faulkner

*Snellville, GA, Shiloh High School
College Plans: Vanderbilt University*

My parents always taught me to value learning for its own sake. “Knowledge can take you places,” they would say. More than that, they taught me to be introspective, empathetic, and honest. It is with these values that I have reached great achievements. I have served as a leader in many of my extracurricular activities, including Beta Club, Scholar’s Bowl, and Senior Board. I have learned to diversify my life with tennis and music. I have hiked countless miles and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. However, I have learned that potential is greater than any achievement when one is willing to do work. I will attend Vanderbilt University and major in Human and Organizational Development. I hope to be a counseling psychologist as well as a neuroscience researcher. I believe the greatest good I can do is to show people that happiness is a choice.



Emily Foltz

*Austin, AR, Cabot High School
College Plans: Duke University*

Receiving the Presidential Scholars recognition is one of the greatest honors I have ever had bestowed upon me. As I reminisce on the multifarious years of acute devotion to academic excellence, I am reminded of all of my teachers, friends, and family who supported me, and I am forever grateful to each and every one of them. Thanks to their dedication to my success, I am able to say that I will be attending Duke University this fall with the intention of going to medical school and becoming a pediatrician. My love of learning and medicine has only grown fonder as I continue to inch closer to my career goal. One day I hope to be able to contribute as vitally to the lives and goals of others as my supporters contributed to my success and further enrichment of my life.



Stephen Fox

*Leawood, KS, Rockhurst High School
College Plans: University of Notre Dame*

I was humbled and honored to have the opportunity to provide leadership to my school community as the National Honor Society President, a Pastoral Council member, President of the Students for Political Action club, an Eagle Scout, and a captain on the cross-country squad. I am proud to be the product of the excellent Jesuit education of Rockhurst High School. I enjoy nearly all of my studies, particularly the social sciences. I plan to focus my studies in these disciplines as a part of the first inaugural class of the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholarship Program at the University of Notre Dame. A graduate of the Professional Culinary Arts Program at the Culinary Center of Kansas City, I am the proud recipient of a culinary certificate. Other than cooking, my passions include reading, running, and travel.



Daniel Fried

*Tucson, AZ, University High School
College Plans: University of Arizona*

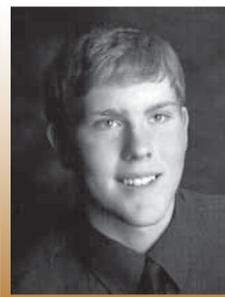
These last four years have been filled with academics, church, clubs, music, and relaxing with my friends over cards and conversation. I've expanded my view of the world, and my own role in it, through a mission trip to Los Angeles, a foreign exchange trip in Germany, and ongoing outreach to the homeless through my church. Thanks to my high school experiences, it's easy for me to look at the world and its issues from multiple viewpoints. In college, I'm looking forward to studying the way societies function through the lens of technology. I plan to study abroad and expose myself to new cultures and languages as quickly as I can. God has blessed me with an amazingly loving and supportive family, superb teachers, great friends, and a deep sense of curiosity.



Alyson Gigger

*Pocatello, ID, Century High School
College Plans: Brigham Young University*

The most important thing to Alyson is her family: She has five older siblings, a little sister, and the best parents. Her older brothers and sisters have greatly influenced the activities in which she participates, such as debate. Alyson is currently the Lincoln-Douglas captain of her high school's debate team. Last year she was selected to attend the National Forensics League national competition in Birmingham, Alabama. Alyson has also shown a great interest in politics. One of her favorite things to do is discuss national and international issues with her family. In addition, she was chosen as the first alternate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program. When she isn't busy arguing the pros and cons of her latest debate topic, Alyson volunteers with her high school's Interact club. As a club officer, she recently helped plan and organize a chili cook-off fundraiser for the victims of the Chilean earthquake.



Daniel Gillund

*Wildrose, ND, Divide County High School
College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

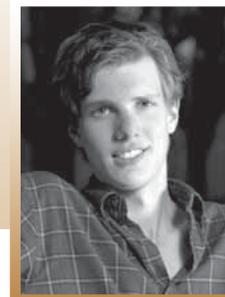
Daniel was raised on a family farm and is an ideal example of what the youth of rural America can offer the world. He is not only a top scholar, but he is an Eagle Scout, artist, athlete, musician and entrepreneur. Daniel is chapter president of the National Honor Society, was senior patrol leader of his Boy Scout troop, and has a close connection with two neighboring cities that have provided him with many service and leadership opportunities. His ingenuity and a passion for shaping red hot steel prompted him to start his own business at the age of fourteen. The result was DragonFire Forge, a fully functional blacksmith shop that makes it possible for Daniel to create and market beautiful works of art that originally only his minds' eye could see. He also loves to learn, read, sing and swing dance, and has plans to pursue an education in mechanical engineering.



Austin Goodwin

*Plano, TX, Booker T. Washington High School of the Performing & Visual Arts
College Plans: New York University, Tisch School of the Arts*

Austin Goodwin is a young artist with many dreams. It took him one dance class to realize that dance is what he would be doing for the rest of his life; that dance class was 6 years ago. Today, Austin is attending Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts where he studies modern dance, ballet, and dance composition, as well as academics. Austin also studies dance at Motion Center for Dance after school and on the weekends. Austin was a YoungArts finalist in Choreography this year, and has continued to create many works. He is also an active member of the community. He received his Eagle Scout Award in 2007, giving back to the community through service projects and food drives. Beyond his art, academics, and community contributions, Austin spends his time writing poetry, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



John Alex Goss

*Bellaire, TX, Kinkaid School
College Plans: The Cooper Union*

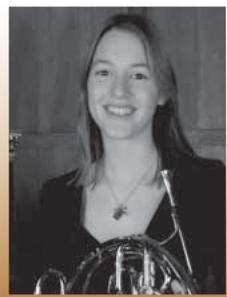
Since my first little point-and-shoot digital camera four years ago, I've been exploring ways to make bigger, sharper, and more natural-looking prints as well as pushing my subjects and compositions. To me, Art is sharing; exchanging images, thoughts, stories. I have used my photography to express myself, serve my community and to begin to build a career. I've spent my summers continuing my education in photography, and this past January I volunteered my service to a professional photographer in her studio. Outside of photography and academics, I enjoy playing music at parties and events. This April will be my third year to DJ the Pink Ribbons Project fashion show in Houston. I've watched and helped the show grow from the start, and this year I am sure it will be a hit.



Gary Gray

*Birmingham, AL, Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School
College Plans: University of Alabama, Birmingham*

For me, trying to write an autobiography inevitably involves writing a great deal about my school because, as even the most stubborn of my classmates will acknowledge, JCIB has been our lives for four years. School is a war of attrition, won only through cooperation, tenacity, and more caffeine than could possibly be healthy. Our assignments may have been overly numerous but could include anything from epistemological essays, personalized Infernos, and six-word autobiographies (“*Lluvia*, and the lachrymose dreamt smiles”). IB helped nourish my interests, including my passions for obscure ethnicities, orchids, ornithology, and a myriad of others. I am president of my school’s National Spanish Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta chapters and captain of our math and Scholars Bowl teams. I would talk about my free time, but in its absence, I forgot exactly what that was. I plan on obsessing over biology for the next several years, but past that, I can only guess.



Brooke Griffin

*Orlando, FL, Dr. Phillips High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

My friends would describe me as a hybrid of Isaac Newton and Angelina Jolie, with Newton’s innovative brilliance and Angelina’s unquenchable appetite for collecting small foreign children. While I can’t say I disagree with this statement, I like to think there’s more to me than that. For one, I’m a fervent disciple of the arts: I read Vonnegut, Salinger, and Camus; I play Debussy, Chopin, and Liszt; I watch Wes Anderson, Quentin Tarantino, and Mel Brooks. Moreover, I like to collect prestigious titles to boost my low self-esteem, and thus I am proud to be named a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar with Distinction, and voted “Most Likely to Say Something Random” by the members of my high school band. I plan on spending the next decade earning multiple degrees to help me achieve my dream of becoming an art museum curator.



Sarah Gustafson

*Wilton, CT, Wilton High School
College Plans: Davidson College*

Sarah, a lifelong Connecticut resident, is a scholar who serves her community, connects with and supports those around her. A ballerina of 15 years, Sarah has performed in programs and benefits for regional and national charities. As an intern for Congressman Christopher Shays and a leader in Wilton Model Congress and Wilton Teenage Republicans, she relishes opportunities to exchange ideas. Sarah also works one-on-one tutoring and mentoring students as a Peervention Member and as President of the A Better Chance Student Board and National Honor Society. This year she led Wilton’s Challenge Team as captain. To relax, she cooks, choreographs, and loves to explore new places, ideas, or opportunities. Her academic interests range from chemistry to Latin, politics, and the humanities. Sarah feels humbled to have participated in the Presidential Scholars Program and thanks the Department of Education as well as her friends and family for their loving support.



Brooks Hallin

*Bozeman, MT, Bozeman High School
College Plans: Dartmouth College*

I love a challenge, whether it is in academics, athletics, or music. Some people think that they can help the world by promoting peace through policy and politics. For me, science will be the leader in a thriving technological world where I might use my knowledge to find an efficient method to use hydrogen fuel cells or fusion energetics in transportation, to discover the secrets of outer space, or invent a new gizmo—in effect, in some way impacting the society around me. Hockey is a passion of mine, and as a coach I have been able to instill the love of the game in the youth of my community. I am a natural leader and have served as vice president of the LEO club, captain of my hockey and soccer teams, and first chair instrumentalist in the symphonic and jazz bands. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, golf, camping, and ping pong.



Horace Rhodes Hambrick

*Georgetown, KY, Scott County Senior High School
College Plans: Furman University*

Yes. I admit it. I enjoy school, learning, and competition. I helped lead my Academic Team to state this year, swam the grueling 500-meter event for my swim team, and participated on the tennis team. I am proficient on both the trombone and the euphonium, am a member of the Symphonic Winds Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Marching Band, and I attended All-State Band twice. I would rather lead than follow! I am Vice President of National Honor’s Society, Key Club President, Vice President of Tri-M Honors Society, and a member of Beta Club. I believe in the adage, “To whom much is given, much is required”; therefore, I serve as President of Youth Impact, a student-led club focused on servant-leadership, and I am an active participant in my church youth group. I plan to pursue the field of medicine at Furman University, where I have received a full ride as a Lay scholar and a National Merit scholar.



John Alex Goss

Ben, Fagetville

Print

15 in x 15 in



Alan Hatfield

*Columbia, MO, Columbia-Rock Bridge Senior High School
College Plans: Princeton University*

I'm an explorer. Not in the sense that I discover unknown islands that move through time and space via super-magnetic fields, but in the sense that I have a biting urge to uncover the world's vastness. As idealistic as it may seem, it guides my everyday life, from my love of Far East foods to my goal of visiting every sovereign nation before I die. In my spare time, when I'm not volunteering at the local VA Hospital, doing top-secret geospatial intelligence work, or guest-editing SAT guidebooks, I immerse myself in everything from books by Malcolm Gladwell to Wikipedia exploration of global cultures to copious amounts of international coffee varieties to a diverse blend of music, including the Arcade Fire, Interpol, and John Mayer. I dabble in politics, a field with which I hope to change the world someday. For me, life is a perpetual journey. I love every minute of it.



Joy He

*Chesterfield, MO, Parkway Central High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

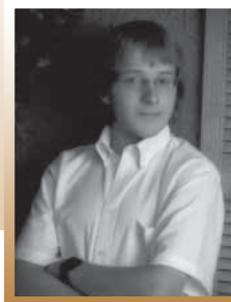
Joy He, 17, is a senior at Parkway Central High School in St. Louis, Missouri. An avid violinist, Joy has served as Concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra for two years, and has been invited to participate in master classes taught by such renowned musicians as Christian Tetzlaff and Gil Shaham. Yet, music is not her only passion. Joy fell in love with biology while researching the soybean genome as a freshman. Since then, her research at Saint Louis University on the effects of opioids on the differentiation of neural cells has earned her much recognition, including publication in the *Journal of Neurochemistry*. In addition, Joy has served as class president of her student council, has won state and national titles for competitions in finance and business, and plays varsity tennis for her school. In her free time, Joy loves to read and jam with friends.



Andrea Hinton

*Leawood, KS, Blue Valley North High School
College Plans: Stanford University*

What is the difference between a C sharp and a D flat? Andrea has always searched for this answer. Scholarship has taught her one answer; physics, for example, shows that the two are identical. However, her extra-curricular activities have unveiled subtle discrepancies. Her work in piano has trained her ear by chords and scales, simultaneously leading her to other achievements such as a performance in Carnegie Hall at the age of eleven and winning Top Virtuoso of the Mid America Music Association annual competition. As an aspiring leader, her vice-presidency roles in the National Honor Society and Student Council, her countless hours of community outreach, her increasing experience in the medical field, and her independent research on algae removal from eutrophic ponds have taught her about the diversity of life. Andrea will continue her studies to promote diversity and global health while still pursuing knowledge of the definite and indefinite facets of the universe.



Gregory Izatt

*Raleigh, NC, Raleigh Charter High School
College Plans: California Institute of Technology*

I am, decidedly, a scientist: when there's a problem, I can't resist seeking out the solution, and when there's a phenomenon, I'll chase after it until I understand it properly. I have found a wonderful niche as an engineer for Raleigh Charter's varsity 2010 state champion Science Olympiad team. I am also a leading member of my school's math, film, fencing, and creative writing clubs. When not designing bottle rockets or tweaking Rube Goldberg devices—or, as in the summer of 2009, working with an interferometric imaging setup at Duke University—I've also enjoyed applying my experience with both piano and cello to the realms of music theory and composition, which has offered a relaxing break from what has been an otherwise chaotic senior year.



Saumil Jariwala

*Raleigh, NC, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
College Plans: University of Pennsylvania, Huntsman Program*

I am an Indian-American whose interests are all over the place: from Quiz Bowl to Model UN, from Spanish to TaeKwonDo, and from Bhangra Dancing to DJing. I've participated in many kinds of research, ranging from work on solving today's energy crisis through cellulosic ethanol production to game-theory research on eliminating the Colombian cocaine trade. Outside of the academic realm, I am involved as an Eagle Scout in my Boy Scout Troop 374, and as Student Body President of Student Government, I raised \$2000 to improve environmental sustainability at my school. My recent work involves educational outreach to high-need communities through stem cell access. By introducing students to cutting-edge science, we can not only increase general awareness of stem cells but also encourage students to pursue careers in the sciences. I find myself inspired by the passions of other people, so it is truly an honor to be included in this accomplished group of scholars!



Katherine Jarrell

Dry Creek, WV, Liberty High School

College Plans: Washington and Lee University

I have always believed there is a perfect balance between work and play. I am a volleyball player who loves to volunteer and a high jumper who loves to laugh. I am a leader who can also follow and an active member of my school's student government and debate team. As a ski instructor who reads, plays piano, and is her sister's best friend, I am a true Renaissance woman. Growing up in a small town in West Virginia has taught me the value of hard work and determination, while also offering many exciting challenges for the future. My interests in chemistry, art history, and economics lead me to study anything and everything; the possibilities for my future are endless.



Megan Jenkins

Sheridan, WY, Sheridan High School

College Plans: Yale University

I was born and raised in Sheridan, Wyoming, a vibrant community that has afforded me many opportunities. My high school hobbies include violin, varsity tennis, Quiz Bowl team, and crossword puzzles. In addition to studying classical violin, I've experimented with Mariachi violin in my school's new Mariachi band. Recently, I have started teaching beginner violin students after school. I serve as a youth member on a local Wellness Advisory Council and have had the opportunity to help organize my school's health fair. As vice-president of my school's National Honor Society chapter, I have helped start an after-school tutoring program. Though I may not have much free time, I shamelessly seize every possible opportunity to watch Spongebob Squarepants.

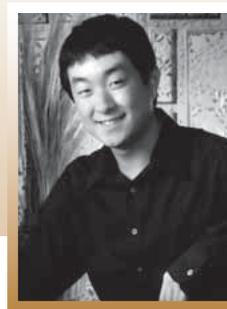


Uchechi Kalu

Orangeburg, SC, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities

College Plans: Princeton University

I can't swim. I write my E's and F's backward. I can never remember that the *Maltese Falcon* is not the *Baltese Falcon*. I count stairs when I walk up them. My house has twelve leading upstairs, and my uncle's house in Nigeria has twenty-two. Basically, I'm full of quirks and flaws, which I love, especially since I write. Writing gives me an opportunity to explore my life and the lives around me, to turn the mundane into something worthwhile. I won't call myself a writer yet. I'm not nearly old enough, or as experienced. Someday I will be, but until then I'm just a girl, just a Southerner, just someone living this life and having fun doing it.



Nolan Kamitaki

Hilo, HI, Waiakea High School
College Plans: Harvard College

Perhaps I was born with science running through my veins. My parents told me that before I could even speak, I figured out how to use the VCR and kept watching a particular video about animated geometric building blocks over and over. I began reading at an early age and always preferred fact books to children's fairytales. Continuing through my school years, science research has been an everlasting door opening to fascination and entertainment. More specifically, what interests me the most is applying science and technology towards improving the quality of human life. Thus, naturally, besides doing research with implications for human health, I've taken advantage of numerous opportunities to participate in student councils, assume leadership roles, and promote local education. But at my most fundamental level, I find learning to be full of surprises and can't wait to continue my education.

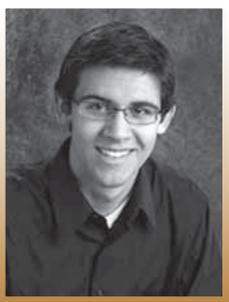


Suraj Kannan

Louisville, KY, duPont Manual High School

College Plans: University of Louisville, GEMS Program

As an eighth grader, I once declared to my friends that I would one day be King of the World; since then I have tried to achieve this goal by actively making an impact on my community. As a self-proclaimed nerd, I have a tremendous interest in science; it was this interest that drove me to conduct stem cell research that could provide revolutionary regenerative tissue therapies for patients suffering from a variety of illnesses and conditions. I am also an avid musician: I have played the viola for many years, and am trying (with some success!) to learn to play guitar as well. In between volunteering, AP classes, and my various clubs (a number of which I helped found), I enjoy making card houses and am currently working to make a replica of my high school using trading cards.



Raj Katti

Excelsior, MN, Minnetonka High School

College Plans: California Institute of Technology

Raj Katti is interested in applying engineering principles and a knowledge of physics to biological systems, which may take the form of engineering biomedical devices. This interest developed from his high school coursework in physics, math, and biology as well as two summers of volunteer work at the laboratory of Caltech Chemical Engineering Professor, William Goddard III. In addition to science, Raj is interested in working in and leading teams. He coordinates a Toastmasters-sponsored public speaking club at his high school, serves as National Honor Society president, and has conducted and played violin for a student-run extracurricular orchestra. He has also performed stand-up comedy and written satirical articles for his school newspaper, two activities he hopes to continue in college. To build a strong technical foundation and his teamwork skills, he will attend the California Institute of Technology as an undergraduate.

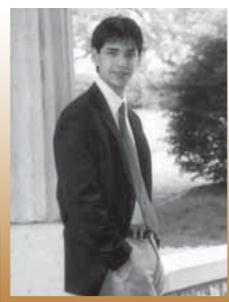


Kelley Katzenmeyer

Durham, NC, North Carolina School of the Arts

College Plans: New York University, Tisch School of the Arts

Kelley became interested in filmmaking at the age of nine. Currently, she works at an organization called Movie Makers, where she teaches young students how to write, direct, and shoot their own films. She is also a film editor at the Center for Documentary Studies. Outside of directing, Kelley is also interested in drawing, painting, acting, and foreign languages—specifically Korean and Turkish. When she graduates high school, she will spend a year studying abroad in Korea on a full scholarship.



David Kersen

Randolph, NJ, Delbarton School
College Plans: Harvard College

Learning and understanding are hardwired into my system like the knee-jerk reaction is hardwired into my spinal cord: It just is. There's not much of a reason for it. I just become inexorably happy when I see a map of the Byzantine Empire. I delight in taking derivatives, translating English into Latin, transcribing jazz records, or imagining the chemical cycle of photosynthesis. They are wonderful, gratifying things to know. It is not that I feel obligated to play the polymath, but it is so fun that I can hardly resist seizing every bit of knowledge that comes my way, especially if I learn it as a result of a wrong answer or a gap in my knowledge. Most knowledge gained during struggle, whether in preparation for an exam or against an opposing team in a trivia tournament, is wont to persist in memory, not because of the effort involved but because of the satisfaction that knowledge brings. Ultimately it is neither external compulsion nor internal obligation that motivates me to learn—it's just a lot of fun.



Eva Koeller

Portland, OR, Lincoln High School

College Plans: Carleton College

I am a very multifaceted person who loves to have fun. I enjoy reading, watching movies, and relaxing with friends. I also love to play sports and have traveled the country playing for several soccer and basketball teams. I founded and am captain of a dragon boat team which has gone undefeated for two seasons, and during my senior year I medaled at both the state and national racquetball tournaments. I enjoy math and the sciences and hope to join the Peace Corps before becoming a doctor. Every summer my family visits a lake in Minnesota where I have learned to wakeboard, sail, and enjoy the little things in life.



Dedeepya Konuthula

Old Bridge, NJ, Old Bridge High School

College Plans: Dartmouth College

When I was born, my parents named me Dedeepya, meaning light, and in India, my name was not considered a mouthful. All of that changed when we moved to America, when I was not yet two years old. Now I get an endless variety of titles from my friends and teachers, most of them starting with D, and, as long as they are uttered fondly, I do not mind. In fact, for as long as I can remember, I have dreamed of being called by a name that starts with a D and is, hopefully, spoken fondly: Doctor. Before applying to medical school, I hope to major in Cognitive Science and minor in Finance. Some of my best high school memories are attending the NJ Governor's School in the Sciences and National Leadership Conferences every year through Future Business Leaders of America, and playing piano at Carnegie Hall.

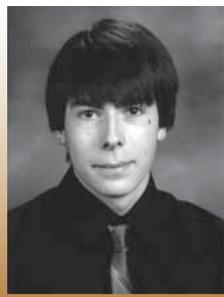


Blaine Krauss

St. Petersburg, FL, Gibbs Senior High School

College Plans: The University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music

Blaine has no doubt where his place in society lies. Born with the gift to perform, Blaine has been practicing musical theater since a very young age. His talents have allowed him to receive national recognition from the YoungArts program as a Silver Winner in Musical Theater, an international invitation to perform at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and numerous local and regional honors. His interests in social change and politics have led to his community involvement with his local Boys and Girls Club of America, where he reached out to underprivileged kids in pursuit of their artistic dreams. He is president of his high school's Thespians society, a member of the Gay-Straight alliance, and maintains a high academic standard. Recently, he has realized that his place in today's society will be to serve his community as best he can; whether it's through his talents or his volunteerism, he will continue to give back all that he has received.



Alexander Krolick

Anchorage, AK, South Anchorage High School

College Plans: Cornell University

When questioned as a toddler, I used to tell inquisitive people that I wanted to be an engineer—which is still true today, but what I meant back then was “someone who drives trains.” At the time, I had probably never heard of an Eagle Scout, and never would have predicted at the journey I took to become one—the snowy peaks climbed, the glacial rivers forded, the service projects completed, the hours spent at “citizenship” merit badge classes (complete with homework). Nor could I have guessed that for one of my summer jobs I would be a paid participant in an economics “lab” class—taking part in prisoners’ dilemma-type scenarios, with actual money at stake. I would not have expected to become a regular tutor for special-needs students, or have the opportunity to attend one of the nation’s top universities. I am grateful for all these experiences, and hope that the future holds just as many surprises as the past.



Tyler Laprade

Palm Bay, FL, Palm Bay High School

College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sports are everything to me. I’d never even heard of a front headlock or topspin in middle school, and now I’m on Palm Bay High’s Swimming, Wrestling, Track, and Tennis teams. I don’t really know how I let my friend talking me into coming to Track, but it’s the best thing that’s ever happened to me, because I kept adding a sport each year, until I ended up with at least one of them being in season the entire year round. This gives me a ridiculously fast metabolism; I eat about as much as the rest of my family combined. I also devote much of my time to my church, Our Lady of Grace. I volunteer as an altar server and at Vacation Bible School. It is very important to me that no matter how far I get, I always keep in mind that the Lord has given me everything.



Benjamin Lei

Wayne, PA, Conestoga High School
College Plans: Stanford University

As a student, the driving force behind my life has been a desire to gain as many diverse experiences as possible. Not only does this make life more exciting, it helps me to better understand the world and to identify the intersection between what I do best and what is most needed. I have explored music by playing violin, and the arts by teaching Chinese Yo-Yo to younger students. I have explored politics through Model UN, and math through numerous competitions. In the sciences, I tracked a near-Earth asteroid at the Summer Science Program and modeled the thermomutability of graphene at the Research Science Institute. To share my love of science, I help organize chemistry demonstrations for elementary school students. To date, my explorations have led me to identify strongly with the sciences, international relations, and business—fields to which I hope to contribute in the future.

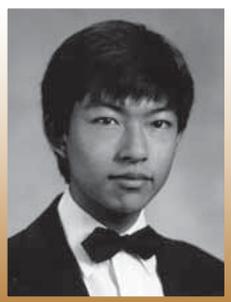


Yvette Leung

Glen Head, NY, Jericho Senior High School

College Plans: Harvard College

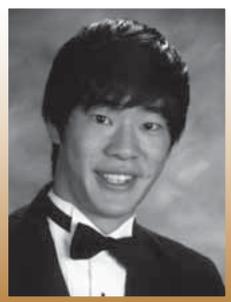
I am a staunch advocate of the phrase, “Variety is the spice of life.” On any given day, I can be found writing my research paper on zebrafish craniofacial development, practicing Lalo’s Symphonie Espagnole for violin, or simply mingling with peers on the All-Star Math Team. An International Science and Engineering Fair Grand Award Winner and Research Science Institute Scholar, I have won the USA National Brain Bee and served as Assistant Concertmistress of the NY All-State String Orchestra. Amidst debating and drafting resolutions at Model UN conferences, I also love to play Ultimate Frisbee with friends. I enjoy reaching out to my community as a peer ambassador for the Youth Decide drug intervention program and as an online expert to mentor aspiring young scientists on their research projects. I would like to thank my family and friends for being so supportive of my every whim and endeavor throughout the years.



Andrew Li

*Flowood, MS, Jackson Preparatory School
College Plans: Johns Hopkins University*

Unlike typical indecisive people who are apathetic about their choices, I am the type of indecisive person who always strives to do the best I can in all of my wide-ranging interests. This unfortunate mix of personality traits has made my life a hodge-podge of different activities, all of which I love and cherish. In my senior year of high school, I elected to take every Advanced Placement course possible. In my extracurricular activities, I have likewise striven to excel, yielding multiple musical awards, a love of running, and the position of captain in such academic teams as debate and chess. If I had to pick one aspect of my life that truly defines who I am, however, it would be my passion for other people. I am always happiest when I can interact with and help others in some way.



Richard Li

*Clarksville, MD, River Hill High School
College Plans: Stanford University*

Ever since what seems like my inception onto planet Earth, I have been immersed in the sciences. At a young age, when my mother complained that my room was too messy, I gladly cited the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which elucidates the importance of entropic disorder. Today, I am a United States National Chemistry Olympiad finalist vying for a chance to compete globally in Tokyo this June. In addition, I have dedicated a good portion of my high school career conducting research in Gastroenterology, and heading our school's spirited Science Olympiad Team. When I don't have a lab coat on, I am a self-proclaimed hip-hop enthusiast. There is no need to ring the doorbell when I arrive at my friends' houses; I subtly announce my presence with the level-6 earthquake produced by my subwoofers. In the near future, I plan to major in Chemistry at Stanford University, and hopefully pursue an M.D./Ph.D dual program.



Heidi Lim

*Las Vegas, NV, Clark High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

I am the girl in the class with her hand raised high, her thoughts almost visibly about to burst out. I am a self-taught photographer, grammar geek, amateur skateboarder, and Mario fanatic. In college, I will endeavor to explore every facet of human intellect, from psychology and sociology to Kafka and Curie, so that I will be able to take on society's challenges from all angles. Over the years, my weekend escapes from the city into the wild deserts and mountains have allowed me to realize how important it is to protect and conserve our planet. As a result, I will be studying environmental engineering and hope to one day found my own renewable energy corporation. In my spare time, I'm prone to eating frozen yogurt, playing a not-so-intense game of tennis with friends, or blogging. At other times, I dream of saving the world!



Ellen Liu

*Houston, TX, James E. Taylor High School
College Plans: Rice University or University of Pennsylvania*

To live, I breathe in warm air from the Gulf of Mexico and breathe out gentle Houstonian hospitality. To grow, I receive nourishment from many others and share it with those who are less fortunate. To learn, I set new goals on my daily path and break yesterday's limits. To compete, I am humbled by the Academic Decathlon experience and thrilled to be the champion of our mighty state. To lead, I set footprints by both walking steadily on my own and holding the hands of others. To discover, I embrace my passion for economics and apply quantitative reasoning to chaotic events. To relax, I row through the waters of Oyster Creek and capture life's vitality through my camera lens. To communicate, I speak languages from different continents and make new acquaintances and friends. To cherish, I thank those who have made me the individual I am today: my friends, my mentors, and my family.



Nicholas Loftus

*Vienna, VA, Georgetown Preparatory School
College Plans: University of Virginia*

I learned to drive early, at a far younger age than is legally permissible, and received my first ticket at the age of three. It was after I had spent part of an afternoon behind the wheel on my grandfather's lap circling the terminal at Reagan National Airport, taking advantage of my aunt's late arrival to perfect my lane-changing skills by weaving between the line of taxis that were camped there, that I was pulled over and ticketed by police for not being restrained in a car seat. At 14, I got a job at the local Baskin Robbins because my brother already worked there, and better yet, the manager, Doug, was known to ignore child labor laws, allowing me to work late shifts and overtime. During high school, I dove and played soccer and golf. I love to cook, do woodworking, and hang out with my friends.



Emma Lucken

Roseville, MN, Roseville Area High School

College plans: Harvard College

When I was little, I wanted to be an artist and create a new art movement using markers. I still enjoy drawing, and designed the t-shirts for our high school band's pops concert, in which I played trumpet in the symphonic band, orchestra, and jazz band. I am a versatile athlete and have competed on varsity teams in soccer, Nordic skiing, cross country, and track and field, earning all-state honors in the 800m run and 4X800 relay. As a coach and referee, I combine my loves of sports and children to teach others. I also love nature and have organized a project to restore an oak savannah near my middle school by removing invasive plants and replanting native species in the area. My favorite memories include taking road trips to nature with my parents and three younger brothers. So far, we've driven to forty states and thirty national parks.



Paul Mains

Saratoga Springs, NY, Doane Stuart School

College Plans: Carleton College

I am a student who takes his work seriously and himself less so. From my childhood, I have been a happy person, and I have always found the world to be an almost overwhelmingly exciting place. Consequently, my interests have been numerous and varied. In school, I try to take as many interesting-sounding classes as possible, including seminars on religious usage of artwork and the life and literature of Oscar Wilde. I like to get others excited about the things that excite me, and I am the founder of my school's Outdoor Adventure Club and Horror Movie Appreciation Club. Recently, I co-headed a school-wide concert and silent auction to raise money for earthquake relief funds in Chile. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, playing the piano, and the occasional nap.



Katrina Malakhoff

Centerville, MA, Barnstable High School

College Plans: Harvard College

My two obsessions are Iceland and Marine Biology. I am fascinated by Iceland's culture, history, geography, and language. In the marine world, I can often be found kayaking, scuba diving, sailing, or taking water samples. I love to muck about in salt marshes and study marine animal behaviors. On land, I enjoy participating in various service activities such as tutoring, building with Habitat for Humanity, and teaching Sunday school. I am an active member of Key Club, National Honor Society, Cape and Islands Youth Congress, and Latin Honor Society, among others. My Future Problem Solving Team and award-winning scenario writing has earned four trips to the International Competition. Currently, I serve as Secretary General of my school's Model UN and co-chair of the Barnstable Community Problem Solving Team. I love playing field hockey and the violin, and I currently play first chair violin with the Cape Cod Symphony Youth Ensemble.



Patrick Mangan

Tallahassee, FL, John Paul II Catholic High School

College: The University of Dallas

"The perplexity of life arises from there being too many interesting things in it for us to be interested properly in any of them." I must confess that I am just as perplexed as Chesterton, for I lament that there are but twenty-four hours in each day and twenty-four million (give or take seven) things I would like to pursue. My chief interests are my Catholic faith, community service, reading and writing, economics, politics, and philosophy. Additionally, I enjoy many other areas of study, including mathematics, history, Spanish, and Latin. Sports have comprised a very large and rewarding part of my life, and I have played baseball, football, basketball, golf, and run cross country on a varsity level. I am a hard worker, and I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

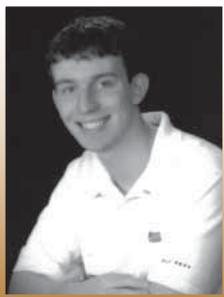


Erin Mauldin

Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque High School

College Plans: United States Military Academy at West Point

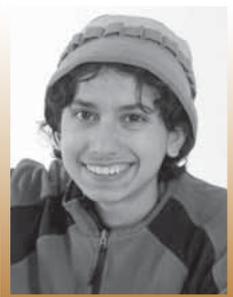
I have grown up in the mountains. Found my feet on a unicycle. Come away from soccer games covered in mud, grass stains, and my own blood. Discovered bravery beneath my feet while hundreds of meters in the air. Learned patience on the sidelines while recovering from injuries. Found my voice in a mock trial courtroom. I am a curious scholar, a driven athlete, a loyal friend, and a committed dreamer. My interests are marked by the determination and passion I bring to everything—from piano, to soccer, to mountaineering, to carpentry, to French. These interests have led me to volunteer in the National Park, where I fixed sod roofs and built shutters led rock climbs, and fell down a mountain (with a subsequent airlift). Besides mastering juggling on a unicycle, I intend to pursue diverse fields of study, including medicine, history, engineering, economics, language, and ancient Chinese landscape painting.



Russel McAvoy

*Sharon, MA, Sharon High School
College Plans: University of Pennsylvania*

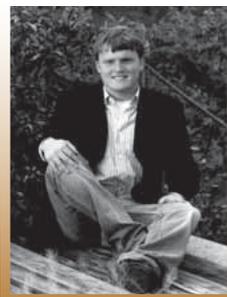
In the Boy Scouts I hiked a 70-mile backpacking trip in New Mexico. I became an Eagle Scout, scouting's highest rank, by completing my service project: clearing a path to the Drake Cemetery and erecting signs with information about its tenants, like Melzer Drake, a Revolutionary War veteran. Two years ago, I joined The Myotonics, a robotics team that competes in the First Tech Challenge. Both years, we won undefeated victories as the captain of the winning alliance in the Massachusetts competition, and traveled to Atlanta for the international competition. Last summer, I worked as a lifeguard at the YMCA and volunteered at Boston's Museum of Science. This fall, I cultured bacteria from the environment and identified them based on their DNA sequences as a research project at the Broad Institute. I discovered that *Staphylococcus Epidermidis* lives inside unopened Ziploc bags.



Megan Mikhail

*Chapel Hill, NC, Durham Academy Upper School
College Plans: Stanford University*

Megan is a self-professed nerd and nature lover. Over the last four years, she has written a fantasy novel (now represented by a literary agent), filed a patent for a medical device to treat anaphylaxis, and started an organization to cultivate underrepresented students' interest in science and engineering. Passionate about both the arts and sciences, she has enjoyed studying transposons in a research lab at Duke University, writing a weekly science-fiction blog, and stage managing plays and musicals at her high school. In her free time, Megan practices Taekwondo (she hopes to earn her black belt this summer) and hikes with her dog on the trails near her home. She plans to study bioengineering and creative writing in college.



Kaiser Mock

*Gillette, WY, Campbell County High School
College Plans: Michigan State University*

When most people think of Wyoming, they think of cowboys, rodeos, and cattle. I am not a cowboy, I don't own a horse, and I don't live on a ranch. I love gymnastics, I bake when I want to relax, and for fun, I collect Olympic memorabilia. Every aspect of my life—whether it is teaching Sunday School to kindergarteners and first graders or participating in track—is done to take full advantage of the opportunities in life and make sure I live life to the fullest. Far above my accomplishments in high school, my most rewarding moments have been the people I have met and the relationships I have formed, especially through Boys' State and Nation. I want to pursue degrees in accounting and economics to found my own business, while living long enough to see the University of Wyoming Cowboys win the Mountain West Conference football title.



Samita Mohanasundaram

*Nashua, NH, Nashua Senior High School North
College Plans: Harvard College*

I'm fascinated by the workings of the body and am intrigued by the many questions left for the biological sciences to answer. Helping others through medicine, traveling around the world to experience different cultures, and delving into the realm of community service are my ambitions. Music is my passion—I enjoy fusing Western piano and Indian dance with vocal, flute, and carnatic Veena (a 1.3 meter-long south Indian stringed instrument made from a single branch of a jack fruit tree). I'm a professional dancer of the Indian classical dance "Bharathanatyam" and enjoy introducing western and carnatic (south Indian) music to audiences across the world. I love helping others. Over the years, I have created supply drives, traveled to villages across the globe to donate materials, founded a nonprofit organization, and launched a day to honor kids worldwide. I enjoy making a difference and encouraging others to do the same!



Robert Moore Jr.

*Porter, TX, High School for Performing and Visual Arts
College Plans: The Juilliard School*

Training for nearly twelve years in classical and contemporary genres, Robbie has had the pleasure of studying at various programs: the EDGE Performing Arts Center, the Houston MET, the Juilliard Summer Intensive, the Joffrey Jazz & Contemporary Workshop, and many others. Over the years Robbie's achievements in performance and choreography have earned him the recognition of several scholarship organizations including the Children's Foundation on the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts. With an interest in learning different languages and traveling, Robbie hopes to ultimately pursue his art on an international level by performing, collaborating, and choreographing with companies outside of the United States.



Kelley Anne
Katzenmeyer

Still from To Be Remembered
Excerpt 1



Caitlin Mori

*Honolulu, HI, Sacred Hearts Academy High School
College Plans: Yale University*

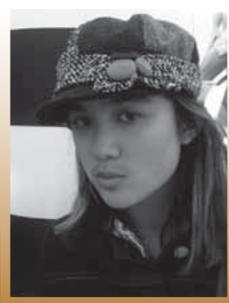
From a young age, I have sought to satisfy my numerous interests by getting involved in multiple activities throughout my school and community. Most of the time, I am occupied with the robotics team, working with machinery, planning off-season events, or simply spending time with teammates. When not in the lab, however, I can be found at a meeting for the math team, writing for Ka Leo, the school newspaper, or walking to air riflery practice—all activities in which I have participated for several years. When I go to college, I will certainly miss these activities and all the friends I made through them. In my spare time, I enjoy reading for hours and walking around my neighborhood. In college, I wish to pursue a double major in linguistics and mathematics, but still have not decided upon any career plans.



Kelsey Moser

*Colton, WA, Colton High School
College Plans: University of Washington*

I play, I farm, I compete, I learn, I dream. I am a small town girl, through and through; I'm not afraid of a little dirt, and I can drive a ten-speed farm truck. I push myself, not to escape Colton, or to prove a point, but to surpass both my own and others' expectations. I am a part of a team, a championship team that succeeds only through cooperation and dedication, no matter the sport. I once dreamt of being an astronaut, of cruising past planets and stars in my trek to the outer reaches of the universe. I am still that little girl who plays with her three sisters, who reads late into the night, and who believes her chance to make a difference in the world is close at hand.



Uyen-Phuong Nguyen

*Salt Lake City, UT, Cottonwood High School
College Plans: The Cooper Union*

I'm president of Service Club, MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement), and SCA (Student Conservation Alliance). Through Service Club, I've conducted local community projects and relief drives for impoverished nations. In MESA, I organized competition schedules intense enough for my peers to claim I was treating science like a sport. I've participated in the Science Olympiad, Chemistry Olympiad, Physics Bowl, TEAMS/JETS, and Engineering Design Challenge for the trebuchet and windmill, helping my school to place or medal in all of them. With SCA, I catalyzed projects for Lexus Eco Challenge and offset 5785 pounds of carbon through an aluminum can drive. My team made semifinals in PBI's Project Polar Bear. I initiated the trend to plant (and hug) trees every Earth Day. In my spare time, I compose music, doodle, fold origami, hike, ski, paint, and if there's still time left, I attempt to equal my sleep hours with my GPA.



Phoebe Nir

*New York, NY, Fieldston School
College Plans: Brown University*

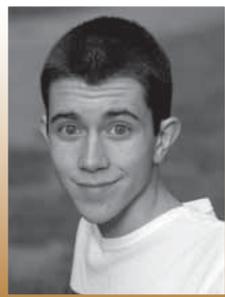
When I was younger, I could immerse myself in fantasy books for hours. But as I've gotten older, and life has gotten more distracting (hello, Internet!), I've lost my talent for pure concentration. Now, when I read, I read in inattentive spurts, and I limit myself to what society has deemed 'required.' I mourned the loss of my private childhood fantasy world, a casualty of this dirty business we call maturation. But when I started to tutor Mariano after school, I glimpsed it once again as I shared with him my old obsession with Greek mythology. "Persephone, Queen of Hell!" he calls me when I suggest we do some math problems. "Hideous Cyclops! Dirty Gorgon!" he says. "I know you are, but what am I?" I reply. Perhaps there is still hope for my inner child.



Jillian Peters

*Hopkinton, NH, Hopkinton High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

Curiosity has funneled my energy into a desire to explore a variety of academics and experiences. I am captivated by everything from the elegant sense of calculus-based physics to insights gained from philosophy. Modern dance is one of my greatest passions, as it provides an outlet for creativity and an artistic study of humanity. My interest in international culture has fueled my talent in Scottish Highland dance and bag piping. I am captain of Hopkinton's math team and a four-year class president. I have been honored as a NH Scholar of the Month, AP Scholar, and National Merit Finalist, and have received a Dartmouth Book Award and Rensselaer Medal Award. I have always believed that collaboration and community involvement are the keys to building humane environments, and am therefore a member of Hopkinton's community service organization, a bread-baker for the Friendly Kitchen, and a volunteer performer in nursing homes.



Derrik Petrin

*Issaquah, WA, Skyline High School
College Plans: Yale University*

My world has always revolved around spur of the moment inspirations that fuel my endless curiosity. I always follow my instincts, and they have led me places I never would have dreamed of. A spontaneous decision to teach myself acoustic guitar over break led me to play bass guitar in a friend's band, the opposite end of the musical spectrum from the violin I have played since 5th grade. This spontaneity applies to more selfless pursuits as well, such as the time I decided one day in advance to join a church group (despite my personal atheism) in preparing and serving meals to Seattle's homeless. In essence, I cannot say that I am bound to a single passion: I have a love for calculus and Robert Frost, Don Quixote and alternative rock with a violin, global health research and hiking the Cascades; the list goes on, and will no doubt continue to grow.



Sean Plumb

*Los Angeles, CA, Loyola High School
College Plans: Curtis Institute of Music*

An exciting young artist, Sean recently performed as a guest soloist at the 2010 Grammy Week Solute to Placido Domingo with the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra. He won the 2009 Classical Singer Magazine High School Competition, acknowledging him as the number one high school vocalist in the nation. Following the 2010 National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts YoungArts Week in Miami, Sean was awarded with the highest level of distinction, the Gold Award. Sean also won the 2009 Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Awards at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. In November 2009, he was featured as a guest on NPR's hit radio show, "From the Top," the showcase for America's most talented young classical musicians. He has studied acting with the Hannon Theatre Company and has appeared in over twenty-five professional and amateur operas, musicals, and plays. He studies with Dr. Karl Snider and also plays piano.



Harrison "Harry" Potter

*Bedford, NH, Bedford High School
College Plans: Tufts University*

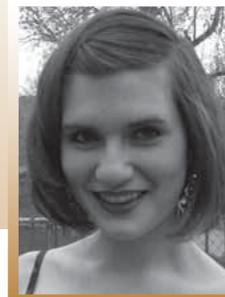
In a world of men, sometimes it takes a wizard to get the job done. That's where Harry Potter comes in. When not defeating dragons and dark lords, he spends his time reading history and anything that bears the name of Henry Kissinger. When not making potions and dealing with goblins, he is an avid member of the FIRST robotics team, on which he has served as CEO and Tri-Captain. When not staving off demons and dementors, he can be found helping, as a member of the first senior class, to establish his high school and write opinion articles for local papers. When not playing Quidditch and wizard chess, he enjoys watching Boston sports, playing video games, and dabbling in dance, numismatics, and international relations. He would, in addition to being an Auror, like to work in the State Department.



Anna Quinlan

*Richmond, VT, Mount Mansfield Union High School
College Plans: Undecided*

When I was younger, I said, "When I get older, I want to have big lips. And when I'm old and all used up, I want to be a queen." I was aiming for quite the future. Now that I don't have big lips and I haven't found a decent prince to marry, I have other plans. Traveling to Nicaragua this past year opened my eyes to a more nurturing type of community. I want to continue my Spanish studies and find time to live abroad. In college, I want to explore a subject of which I've just hardly touched the surface—cognitive science. Now that I've redefined the world in from a teenager's eyes, I can say, "When I'm older, I want to have accomplished something I consider significant."



Allison Ray

*Helena, MT, Helena High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

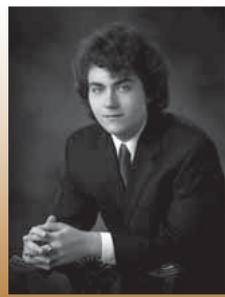
Allison Ray is a woman driven by academic curiosity, a passion for music, and sense of political responsibility. She was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota; it was there she discovered her passion for opera. In the summer of 2007 she moved to Helena, Montana, with her mother. In spite of (or perhaps because of) the ostensibly limited academic and musical opportunities Helena offered, she vowed she'd become the best scholar and singer she could be. In the summer of 2008 she participated in the Vocal Soloist Studies program at Interlochen Arts Academy. Last summer she traveled to Italy for five weeks to study opera and Italian. During the school year, she divides her time between schoolwork, music and theater, and Planned Parenthood, where she works to help distribute information about health to her peers.



Elizabeth Reiser

*Birmingham, AL, Briarwood Christian High School
College Plans: Auburn University*

An avid Duke basketball fan since birth, Elizabeth had the distinct privilege of attending the Final Four in Indianapolis this spring and watching the Blue Devils win a national championship. Elizabeth is a student athlete who strives for excellence in all of her activities. She is a National Merit Finalist and member of the National Honor Society. A four-year math team member, she is also the secretary of Mu Alpha Theta and treasurer of the senior class. At Alabama Governors School, she was chosen as the Outstanding Female Student, and her high school voted her Homecoming Queen this fall. Having lettered in three varsity sports—volleyball, basketball, and soccer—she has maintained a 4.7 GPA while taking numerous honors and AP courses each year. She is excited to be a captain of her varsity soccer team this year as they compete for their 8th state championship.



Jake Ross

*Greenville, SC, South Carolina and attends the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities
College Plans: University of South Carolina*

Jake Ross, the son of Danny and Leah Ross, lives in Greenville, South Carolina and attends the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, where he majors in Creative Writing. Next year he plans to attend the University of South Carolina Honors College, where he hopes to incorporate writing into whatever major he chooses. Jake is a Palmetto Fellow, a Carolina Scholar, a YoungArts Silver Medalist in nonfiction, and a Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Portfolio Gold winner—an award he will accept at Carnegie Hall this year. Although creative writing has taken over his life for the past four years, Jake is also known for his extensive sweater collection and—in the words of a local journalist—his “shock of black curly hair.”



Talia Rothenberg

*San Juan, PR, St. John's School
College Plans: New York University, Tisch School of the Arts*

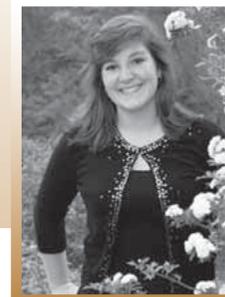
When Talia and I met, she was 6 years old, obsessed with Spice Girls, and already aspiring to become an actress. She constantly demonstrates undying motivation to realize her goals, as she has continued to excel in everything that she has set her mind to. Somehow you wonder if there is enough time in the world for Talia; if days were any longer she would reach unspeakable levels: from being the feisty starlet in FAME, to chairing the Model United Nations competitions and the Organization of American States, to teaching underprivileged kids English, to simply having a wonderful personality. Talia does not have a black and white personality, but a colorful one that brings out joy in all situations. She has remained grounded, even as she has continued to pursue goals that I know will eventually put her name up in lights somewhere. —Her best friend, Alfonso.



Torin Rudeen

*Eugene, OR, South Eugene High School & Eugene International High School
College Plans: Princeton University*

I feel fortunate to have grown up in a family that was never afraid to do something impossible. When I was little, I was sure I would be a scientist; now, I'm more interested in public policy. No matter where I end up, however, I'll approach the world in the same way I always have: with the attitude that there is always something new to learn, something amazing to discover, another problem to solve. I keep myself busy outside of school by playing Chopin, singing Schubert or Fitzgerald, and occasionally picking up the accordion. Two summers ago I studied differential equations while acting professionally in local theatre. I spent last summer studying intensive Mandarin Chinese, and this summer I will repeat the experience at Indiana University's Flagship Chinese Institute. This fall I will attend Princeton, where I plan to study engineering and public policy.



Marissa Ruehle

*Bellville, TX, Bellville High School
College Plans: The University of Texas, Austin*

I live on a miniature horse ranch in a rural Texas town of 3,796 people. I have shown horses on the national level, helped diagnose animal illnesses, and delivered baby horses. I was born into a world of nature and science, and I plan to continue this fascination by majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of Texas. With this degree, I hope to participate in research to treat and cure genetic diseases. In school, I have been an active member of band; I worked to become a member of the Texas All-State Band all four years of high school, I have led full band and sectional rehearsals, and I have taught junior high clarinet. I am district champion in UIL Mathematics and Ready Writing, and I am a National Merit Scholar. I love animals, music, writing, traveling, spending time with my family and friends, and laughing.



Ida Saki

Plano, TX, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
College Plans: New York University

At only the age of eighteen, Ida has already made a name for herself in the dance world and continues to inspire audiences. Not only did she receive a silver award for modern dance from YoungArts, but she also was named a Texas Young Master in dance. She has received five national titles, including Distinguished Performer of the Year and most recently, 2009 New York City Dance Alliance Outstanding Dancer of the Year. Ida has graced the cover of the prestigious *Dance Spirit Magazine* and has appeared within the magazine numerous times. Most recently, Ida was selected to present her choreography in Miami, Florida, as a part of the National High School Dance Festival, where she received the Outstanding Choreography Award and was able to perform in the festival's gala. She is a member of Repertory Company I and the Pre-Professional Company at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center and now travels on a twenty-four city tour around the nation demonstrating all styles of dance to children of all ages with various prestigious teachers.



Kiah Schaeftbauer

Sioux Falls, SD, O'Gorman High School
College Plans: University of Notre Dame

Kiah is an excellent juggler—but not in the literal sense. Excelling as a student, actor, and softball player—as well as making time for family, church, and service—makes for quite the juggling act. National Merit Scholar, Academic All Star 2010, President of the National Honor Society, State Softball Champions 2009, and State Superior Acting are just a few of the honors Kiah has earned that show her dedication and passion for the activities in which she participates. In the summer of 2008, she served on a life-changing mission trip to Los Cabos, Mexico, which sparked her passion to use her gifts to help others. She is an active member of her church and enjoys spending time with her family of seven. When she has free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, working out, reading, or working at her part-time job.



Joseph Schiavone

Piscataway, NJ, Middlesex County Academy for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technologies
College Plans: Harvard College

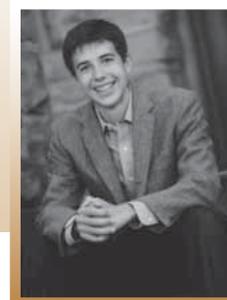
Joseph is an aspiring computer scientist who is dedicated to applying his technical abilities to support important causes. For example, he has interned at Princeton University, designing and developing a system to test quantum cascade lasers used in medical, public health, and environmental applications. He is also passionate about robotics, and has been a member of competitive teams since the fourth grade. At school, he is founder and president of the drama club, vice-president of the student council, and team leader for the Moody Mega Math Challenge. In his spare time, he works on his novel, plays music, and plays soccer. As an Eagle Scout, he also assists with community service through his troop. He is also a proud recipient of the Elks Club Most Valuable Student award, and a National Merit Scholarship finalist.



Jennifer Schmidt

Seattle, WA, Lakeside School
College Plans: Pomona College

Jennifer's favorite part of senior year is the freedom she's had to pursue new interests. In the past, she has enjoyed playing soccer for high school and club teams, taking classical piano lessons, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and participating on the teen advisory board at her local library. As part of her school community, she has co-chaired the Amnesty International club and helped organize blood drives for a local blood bank. This year, she loved being on the school Nordic ski racing and crew teams for the first time. Getting together with friends, being active outdoors, cooking, and reading are some of Jennifer's favorite ways to entertain herself in her spare time. She looks forward to trying more new activities and challenges in college, though she'll miss her incredibly supportive family and community.



Karl Schutz

Eagle, ID, Bishop Kelly High School
College Plans: Dartmouth College

My life is a smorgasbord of passions, a buffet full of everything from school to volunteering to sports to individual idiosyncrasies. In school, I'm part math/science nerd, part history buff, and part writer wannabe—all crammed into one person. For me, volunteering entails planning a fundraising dinner for Big Brothers Big Sisters, building a house in Tijuana, and leading other high school students on a spring break service project. Because conventional sports resulted in awkward stumbling and tumbling, I now stick with running and Ultimate Frisbee to stay in shape. I love reading, particularly anything by Eric Schlosser or Malcolm Gladwell. I can speak at a rate of approximately 332 words per minute, and I have a weird obsession with Friedrich Nietzsche (I am a debater). I am from Idaho, but I do not live on a potato farm (although I have toured one before).



Pooja Shah

Fremont, CA, Irvington High School

College Plans: Princeton University or Harvard College

From a young age, I have found myself in a constant race against time. Too many goals, so many dreams, and so little time! So, what do I do? Just the best I can. Making it to and winning the national speech championships. Discovering a new polymer and publishing its wonders in *Nature*. Decoding the gene expression patterns of *Drosophila melanogaster*, more commonly known as the fruit fly. Running for hundreds of miles on black roads and on untrodden paths. Establishing an organization dedicated to youth empowerment, mentorship, and lifelong learning. These have been some of my passions, and they push me to action. But before time runs out, I aspire, above all, to transform the world.



Valerie Shen

Verona, WI, James Madison Memorial High School

College Plans: Harvard College

It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it. I live this idea, literally through competitive debate and figuratively by broadening my experiences rather than settling into a comfort zone. As President of Drama, Debate, and Forensics, I argue about issues from healthcare to counterterrorism. I am a state champion in Extemporaneous Speaking and Public Forum Debate. Our team has earned three consecutive forensic state championships. I coach MATHCOUNTS, a competition that teaches students to attempt multiple solutions before settling on answers. After attending the Aspen Ideas Festival, I hosted a symposium to promote volunteerism and exploration of new activities. I am a varsity tennis captain, class officer, tennis instructor for minority students, pianist, and former intern for a state representative. My life is constantly enriched by exploration; I have striven, and will continue to strive, to bring similar opportunities to others.



Michael Silberblatt

Coronado, CA, Coronado High School

College Plans: Northwestern University

Michael is a self-dubbed "analytical artist." His interest in calculus and physics, coupled with his passion and talent for theatrical performance, make him a truly whole-brained individual. Michael, who began performing in the fifth grade, has taken the stage in a range of productions, from *Zombie Prom* at the Coronado School of the Arts to a bilingual production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego. Michael is a two-time English Speaking Union Regional Shakespeare Competition Finalist and a recipient of the 2010 YoungArts Silver Award in Theater. He is an active member of the La Jolla Playhouse Student Board of Trustees, a theatre-advocacy group in the greater San Diego area. Michael enjoys acting, dancing (tap, jazz, hip-hop), singing, community drug-prevention service, soccer, surfing, and shamelessly working through calculus problems for fun.



Dakota Snyder

York, ME, York High School

College Plans: Northeastern University

Intricate, multi-faceted puzzles intrigue me. I am fascinated by how they fit, function and form a whole. My inquisitive nature causes me to continuously seek out logical solutions. I am unafraid to take calculated risks. I strive for excellence and precision. These qualities seem a natural fit for the field of science and a career path that leads to one of the most research-oriented specialties, neurosurgery. This occupation exemplifies my love of knowledge and desire to solve problems that affect the lives of others. As editor-in-chief of my high school yearbook, I have learned to meet deadlines and inspire others to do the same. I am a student voice at town meetings, a tutor, an advisor and faithful friend. I possess the confidence and tenacity to succeed in my quest. My philosophy, and the constant aspiration I will carry with me, is to give back tenfold to my global community.



Preston So

Colorado Springs, CO, Air Academy High School

College Plans: Harvard College

A writer, speaker, and designer, Preston immerses himself in academic and artistic pursuits in addition to his passion for entrepreneurship. In 2001, he entered the world of web design, and, at age twelve, he established a freelance studio that maintains a devoted clientele to this day. Perpetually broadening his horizons, Preston led creative production at a local multimedia firm, spoke at an international convention of web developers, and provided extensive consulting work for several area school districts. He also distinguishes himself as concertmaster in the local youth orchestra and as composer of award-winning works premiered throughout Colorado Springs. A National Merit Scholar, Preston leads his school's Spanish Honor Society and captains the Science Olympiad team. When he is not advocating for improved web accessibility, exploring historical linguistics, or failing miserably at physics, Preston is also a polyglot with a penchant for good movies and the Colorado outdoors.



Lauren Stephens

Indianapolis, IN, North Central High School

College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

I have competed in Science Fair, History Day, ARML, AMC, AIME, USAMO, Academic Super Bowl, Knowledge Masters Open, Academic World Quest, and Science Olympiad. In 2010, I conducted a science fair project researching Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms and qualified for Intel ISEF. I have attended USA/Canada Mathcamp, the Research Science Institute, and Princeton's SWIM program. I am a 2009 National Merit Semifinalist and the 2009 State AP scholar for Indiana. My poetry has been published in both the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans 2003 Edition and "Etchings in Thought," 2007. From 2006 to 2009, I ran varsity and junior varsity cross country and track. In 2002, 2003, and 2007, I was a member of US National Climbing Team, and in 2007 I attended the World Youth Championship Climbing Competition in Ibarra, Ecuador and was ranked 27th in the world in my age category.



Phoebe Strom

Fargo, ND, North High School

College Plans: Rhodes College

I'm only elitist about word choice. People say I'm the most immature mature person they've ever met. I find talking about myself awkward. I'm passionate about public speaking, and I live by quotes. As Marilyn Monroe once said, "I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you can appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together."



Daniel Sullivan

Wilmington, DE, Salesianum School

College Plans: Georgetown University

I have been fortunate enough in my life to have been exposed to a wealth of opportunities and experiences that have been instrumental in shaping who I am. I am the second child in a family of five kids. Two summers ago, I built a house alongside my brother and father. I have travelled to France several times and I have become fluent in the language. Through the Interact Club and the Jefferson Awards Team at my school, I have been actively involved in community service efforts. Most of my free time goes to practicing guitar and singing with friends. We have been playing locally in acoustic benefit shows for Uganda set up through Invisible Children for the past few years. After graduating from Georgetown, I plan on getting a J.D./M.B.A. through a joint-degree program. For my career, I hope to work in microfinance focused on societal development.



Austin Taylor

Plano, TX, St. Mark's School of Texas

College Plans: Northwestern University or the University of Southern California

I always try to do everything. There is never a moment I can be caught lacking something to do. Simply put, I have a wide variety of interests. In addition to being a high honors student, a member of my church's youth group, the Vice-President of the St. Mark's Honor Society, and a member of the National Spanish Honor Society, I played varsity soccer, serve as a school ambassador, and participate in the school's concert and jazz bands. Music has manifested itself as one of my greatest interests. My musical endeavors have led me to perform as a soloist with the Plano Symphony Orchestra, to be featured on NPR's radio broadcast "Performance Today," and to play as the first chair of the World Youth Wind Symphony at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, which I have attended for the past two summers.



Michael Taylor

Arlington, TX, Home School

College Plans: Harvard College & New England Conservatory

Born in London to an Australian father and an American mother, Michael landed in Texas when he was twelve. His intellectual interests include English, modern literature and the history of ideas. Michael has been playing piano since he was five, violin since eight, and composing since ten, in addition to singing, improvising, strumming, blowing, and banging on any instrument he comes across. He fiddles weekly in his church's youth worship team. In 2009 Michael was awarded two national 1st places with the Music Teachers' National Association for Piano Performance and Composition. He is concertmaster for the Youth Orchestra of Fort Worth, a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist, and the William H. Banchs 2010 YoungArts Gold Award winner in Music Composition.



Seth Thompson

Henderson, NV, Coronado High School

College Plans: Yale University

Seth is a mathematician, classical pianist, filmmaker, artist, magician, and DJ. He has won numerous competitions in piano, math, and chemistry at the regional and state levels. Seth's life is enriched by community involvement through the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and years of volunteer work with the library district's Summer Reading Program and Teen Advisory Group. Always full of energy, he tackles each new project with as much enthusiasm and conviction as the last. Whether he is designing t-shirts, learning C++, studying the history of the square root of negative one, or performing a Prokofiev Sonata, Seth revels in the excitement of discovery, the satisfaction of doing, the process of creating, and the realization of far-off visions. His ambition as a college student is to hone his critical thinking skills and excel in a profession that allows him to embrace life thoughtfully and with regard for others.

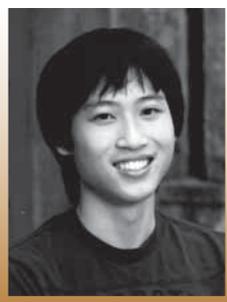


My Ngoc To

Lilburn, GA, Parkview High School

College Plans: Harvard College

My dream is to be an artist. As I grew up, however, I realized that there is more to art than just painting. Art is a way of life, and I try everyday to fill mine with color, variety, and harmony. I am graduating as the valedictorian of my class, the president of National Honor Society, an avid pianist, and the founder of a major Middle School Awareness program. I have attended the Governor's Honors Program, been to the Center for Disease Control's Disease Detective Camp, performed research on hydroponic lettuce, and worked in the service industry as a nail technician for two years. However, as the list of titles and rankings grows longer and longer, the more apparent it becomes that success is not an external transition, but an internal transformation; while I am proud of the things I have done, my happiness comes from leading the life I envisioned – well-rounded, colored by passion, and united by love.



David Tong

Barrington, RI, Barrington High School

College Plans: Columbia University

Above all, David relishes the thrill of discovery, in straddling the boundaries of all that is known and familiar to him. Whether in the laboratory, the kitchen, or the conservatory, David is constantly "seeking" serendipity, be it in the form of a fortuitous hypothesis, a harmonious mélange of spices, or the perfect phrasing for a musical passage. Exploring new scientific frontiers, he has conducted extensive research in microbiology and is a published co-author. As a self-taught chef, he enjoys creating, or rather stumbling upon, entirely new dishes while experimenting with a wide variety of different ingredients and cooking techniques. David is an admitted epicurean whose interest in gastronomy has led him around the world to experience many foreign cultures and fearlessly sample their distinct cuisines, and, in the process, he has developed novel tastes that his friends would find quite unusual. An avid musician, he is also a classical pianist of 15 years.



Wyatt Troia

Omaha, NE, Creighton Preparatory School

College Plans: Harvard College

Wyatt's favorite activity during high school has been serving as a Core Leader of Operation Others, an organization that delivers two weeks' worth of food to over 1600 underprivileged families in the Omaha metro area. In 2008, he founded at Creighton Prep, a chapter of No Place for Hate, an Anti-Defamation League-sponsored program designed to combat prejudice and promote tolerance in schools. Since then, he and friends have been traveling to Omaha elementary schools with an original anti-prejudice lesson plan, and so far they have spoken to more than 400 students. He ran track and swam at the varsity level and plays the trumpet. In his free time, he enjoys parks, music and hanging out with his friends. His favorite book is *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay. He plans to concentrate in government at Harvard College.



Bernard VanBerkum

Grosse Pointe Park, MI, De La Salle Collegiate High School

College Plans: Stanford University

Ben comes from a family of nine with strongly-rooted values in faith and education. He is the eldest of seven children, so moving on to college will be an adventure for the whole family. Ben enjoys studying mathematics and the sciences, particularly calculus and physics, as well as learning about Spanish language and culture. As an Eagle Scout, Ben enjoys spending time outdoors and engaging in service to his community. Ben enjoys spending time tutoring other students in various areas, especially mathematics. He spends time in the summer as a counselor for a two-week camp, and particularly likes planning and executing the culminating event of camp, the Treasure Hunt. Ben is also interested in computers, and he spends time exploring technological advances as well as writing code. He often serves as a technological consultant for family and friends. Ben is excited about the opportunities that next year will bring.



Erica Vlahinos

Castle Rock, CO, Douglas County High School

College Plans: University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music

I grew up surrounded by engineers. Dinner conversations included heated debates about polar curves and differential equations. Life was always logical and reasonable, full of statistics. Here's one for you: less than 1% of working actors make it onto the Broadway stage. And here's the thing. I'm going to be a part of that 1%. At eight years old, I fell in love with Musical Theatre: an art where you can escort people out of reality and into a place where emotional limits do not exist. Where, when overpowered with passion or feeling of any kind, music can express what is emotionally intangible. Through my passion, perseverance, self-discipline, responsibility, integrity, compassion and talent, I will do justice to this art form and constantly strive to be the best in my field. I believe in this art! And my passion is too deeply rooted for the odds of my success to weed it out. So I guess I'll see you in the 1%.

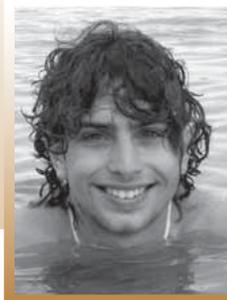


Alexander Vollmer

Marietta, GA, Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts at Pebblebrook High School

College Plans: Southern Methodist University

Alex has been singing for as long as he could talk, but did not begin formally studying voice until August of 2007. In the summer of 2008, Alex attended the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artist Vocal Program. Since then, his passion for music has led him to do many things, ranging from caroling throughout Metro Atlanta in period costume to some more glamorous events such as YoungArts Week in Miami. Alex loves performing, and much of who he is has been defined by his work on the stage. As such, it is anything but rare to find this young man singing under his breath in class, dancing in the hallways, and simply marching to the beat of his own drummer. Alex credits his love for the arts to his mother, Michelle, and thanks her for her constant, and crazy, wisdom.



Alan Wagner

Guaynabo, PR, Baldwin School of Puerto Rico

College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

My life has a bit of everything. Some days I wake up halfway around the world, ready to represent Puerto Rico in an international math or physics competition, and other days I wake up ready to power through my habitual workout session; but no matter when or where I find myself, I strive to give my best and make the correct decisions. Some people say that I do too much or that I am a workaholic, but I only do what I love. I enjoy reading, especially about the latest breakthroughs in theoretical physics and the workings of the human brain, and I keep myself active by swimming, running, tennis, and martial arts. I partake in community service activities whenever I get the opportunity, especially in a nearby home for abused children. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in science, for it is my greatest passion.



Anne Wang

North Salt Lake, UT, West High School

College Plans: Vanderbilt University

I plan to major in economics, with a double minor in corporate strategy and financial economics. Placing sixth at the 2009 International DECA Marketing Competition was the catalyst that led me to believe I could be successful in the field of business. I wish for a career that creates the fulfillment of being able to change the world. I am inspired by undertakings such as Project Red, where businesses help promote society awareness about HIV/AIDS while making a difference in the lives of millions. Being a business executive in charge of such projects would give me a chance to challenge myself while simultaneously alleviating the challenges of others.

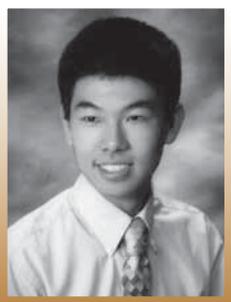


Grace Wang

Annamdale, VA, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

College Plans: University of Pennsylvania

Grace is active in both her school and her community. As the senior class president of her high school, she organizes class-bonding events in addition to traditional homecoming, prom, and graduation festivities. As a varsity swim and dive captain, she has learned about the role of leadership in athletics and the importance of endurance and team spirit. Grace uses her swimming experience in volunteering for Special Olympics. She credits her leadership skills to an international leadership program she attended after her sophomore year, Camp Rising Sun. As for academics, Grace is involved with her school's varsity math team. She also interned at the Naval Research Laboratory, working with organic nanotubes. She is planning on pursuing a business and an engineering degree under the University of Pennsylvania's Jerome Fisher Program in Management & Technology.



Michael Wang

*Carmel, IN, Carmel High School
College Plans: Stanford University*

Modest, motivated, passionate, confident and optimistic, I live my life according to my motto, "Play hard, work hard." Working hard, I enjoy learning for knowledge's sake, not necessarily for the test scores or the grades. As a National Merit Finalist, an Indiana Academic All-Star and a National AP Scholar, I plan to pursue a double major in 3-D art and political science to become a social worker dedicated to promoting education worldwide as a Stanford Tree next year! Playing hard, I enjoy volunteering at two hospitals, writing for the Indianapolis Star, raising money and awareness to improve education through GlobalGiving, tutoring math, interning at the IU medical center as a research assistant, participating in student government, ice skating, rollerblading, molding clay and even breeding guppies! However, none of this would have been possible without my supportive parents and sisters, who taught me to dream big and achieve even bigger.



Paul Wasserman

*Washington, DC, Maret School
College Plans: Georgetown University*

By far the most defining characteristic of my life is that of student. I've gone to three schools in two different states in 12 years, and yet my love of and interest in learning has never dimmed. Everything at school, from classes to sports, to serving as student body president, captivates me. I discovered that I'm a history buff, from American history, to Medieval European, to the history of the Supreme Court and government. Outside the classroom, I spent my senior year as an intern for the Washington, DC City Council, watching as influential bills, such as the gay marriage bill, were passed. Competition spurs greatness. Whether it is on the soccer pitch or the track, I am driven by a desire to win. At home, it is my identical twin brother who pushes me to work hard.



Connor Watumull

*Dallas, TX, St. Mark's School of Texas
College Plans: Dartmouth College*

The single most effective adjective to describe Connor's high school career is "busy". While he devotes most of his time and passion to his work in ceramics, he also serves as president of his school's Model United Nations Club and Investment Club. His interests include education policy, art history, music, literature, government, and rollerblading. He has also earned varsity letters in lacrosse and hockey, all four years of his high school career. Though he does maintain a healthy variety of interests, he is no friend of numbers; mathematics has remained the bane of his four years of high school. During the summer of 2009, he interned in Senator Daniel Inouye's office in Washington. He hopes to double major in Sociology and English in college. He also hopes that free time will be less elusive in college than it has been in high school.



Natalie Weires

*Asbury, IA, Hempstead High School
College: Princeton University*

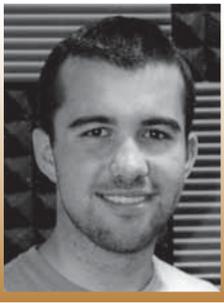
Natalie swims on her school's team, plays the trumpet in band and pit orchestra, and is a team captain for science bowl. She attended the Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics and enjoys folding modular origami. She also loves musicals. In elementary school, she wanted to grow up to be a book editor so she could spend all day reading. She's now considering studying computer science or chemistry, among other things. She is a National AP Scholar and a National Merit Finalist. After taking the PSAT, Natalie started receiving mail from lots of colleges in which she wasn't interested, and wanted to keep the ridiculous amounts of paper from being wasted, so she used it as origami paper. After cutting out a couple thousand little rectangles, she folded them and assembled the units into the inverse of a level two Menger Sponge, complete with a color scheme.



Kevin Weiss

*Essex Junction, VT, Essex High School
College Plans: University of Michigan*

With an appetite for learning and challenge, I am determined to be socially responsible and actively participate. I lead by example, exhibiting integrity, citizenship, scholarship, sportsmanship, and respect. I believe in the joy of athletics and cherish sports for the lessons they have taught me. I take those lessons and apply them to the rest of my life. Through athletic participation, I thrive emotionally and physically. Sports have enabled me to develop mental toughness, taught me to persevere, and strengthened my leadership skills. They have taught me to challenge myself, no matter what my endeavor, and to encourage others to strive to fulfill their potential. Importantly, athletics allow me to contribute to my community, and honor a personal commitment to repair the world and make it a better place to live. Regardless of the particular path I choose, I am excited for the opportunity to quench my thirst for knowledge.



Alexander Welton

Pebble Beach, CA, Robert L. Stevenson School

College Plans: Dartmouth College

Alex is a student dedicated to the creative arts and service as well as scholarship. He is a National Merit Scholar and an Eagle Scout, and the recipient of numerous awards, academic and creative, local and national. In the summer of 2008, he began writing his first novel, *Dawn*, and signed a New York-based literary agent soon after its completion. He is currently working on his second novel. In addition to writing, he pursues music through performance in three instruments and composition in multiple genres and styles. He hosts a weekly radio show on KSPB 91.9 FM, and in free time often indulges in his latest interest, photography. Finally, Alex is an outdoorsman who has ventured on dozens of challenging excursions in the disciplines of hiking, backpacking, and canoeing.

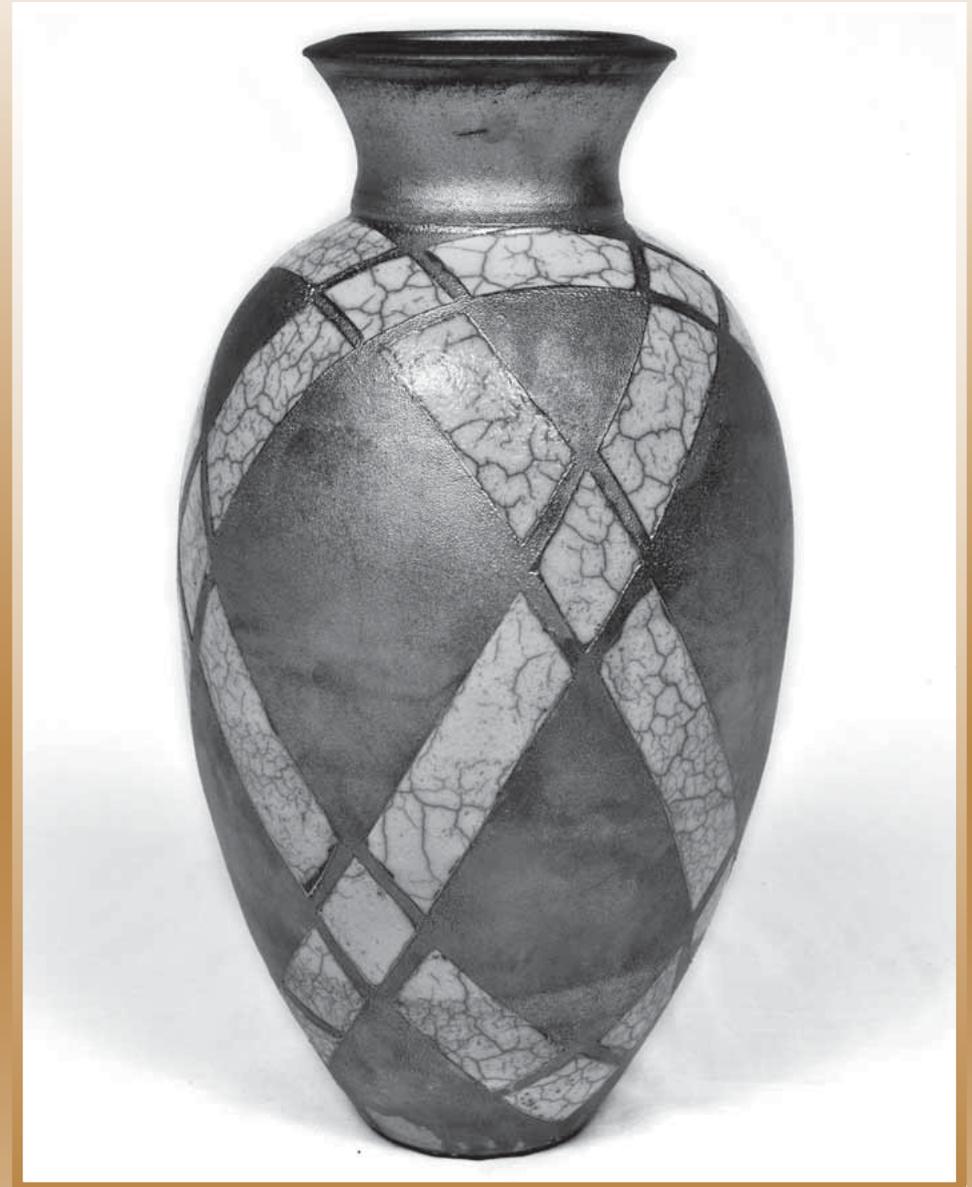


Nicole Wenger

Fairbury, IL, Prairie Central High School

College Plans: Yale University

I grew up feeding corn cobs to hogs, riding bikes around the country section, and reading endlessly. When I was three, I began gymnastics and loved the sport so much that I continued until my sophomore year, when an injury forced me to give it up. Attending a circus camp, I learned to juggle, unicycle, flip off of a Russian swing, and perform other crazy stunts. I was State President of Illinois FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) during my junior year. In January, I went to an orphanage in Mexico, where I dug a phone line, helped build a house, spoke a little Spanish, and met the sweetest children. I am drum major of the marching band, sing at every opportunity, and act in musicals. In my free time, I act, write, rollerblade, play basketball, read, and spend time with friends.



Connor Watumull

Thawing Fawn

Raku fired

7 in x 13 in



Morgan Whitaker

Scottsdale, AZ, Desert Mountain High School
College Plans: The University of Alabama

As I stepped off the plane in Costa Rica last July, I was alone, far from home, and separated by a language barrier. I spent the next month in a study-abroad program learning Spanish while exploring Costa Rica. While I enjoyed the natural beauty of Costa Rica (sloths, butterflies, and beaches!), I left with an improved understanding of the difficulty that a language barrier can present. Through my extensive experience volunteering in a hospice, I have seen the struggle which families and patients go through when coping with an illness, and the increased difficulties families face when they are unable to effectively communicate. My experiences have led me to pursue medicine with the hope to care for those who face a language barrier. Along the way, I hope to continue painting, to take classes in Salsa and Merengue, and to explore exotic lands—overall, to have fun!



Cody Wild

State College, PA, State College Area High School
College Plans: Tulane University

As a State College High School senior, Cody Wild has spent the last few years balancing textbooks, produce codes—and of course using her favorite red editing pen—as an AP Scholar, part-time Wegmans cashier, and occupant of several editorial positions for the yearbook and newspaper in State High’s journalism department. Over four years of high school, Cody has been engaged in the Leo Club, a student offshoot of the Lions Club, and this year was elected to the position of President. In addition, she has participated in the YMCA Youth and Government program. Writing, always a passion for Cody, became a creative outlet and a vital tool as she experimented with styles varying from fiction to investigative reporting. Further notable accomplishments remain largely a mystery of the future as yet, but she patiently and hopefully awaits their arrival.



Lauren Williams

Northbrook, IL, Chicago Academy for the Arts
College Plans: The Juilliard School

Lauren has been playing the oboe for seven years. Beginning in her elementary school band, she first regarded the oboe as a challenge, then a source of pride, and now her defining passion. She made her solo debut in 2008, performing Richard Strauss’s *Oboe Concerto* with the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, Lauren was selected to perform with the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela at Chicago’s Symphony Center, under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. In March, Lauren performed on *From the Top*, a national radio show highlighting the country’s best young musicians. In addition, she has been a soloist on WFMT’s *Introductions*, as well as a performer on their *Live from Studio One* series. She has participated twice as a quarterfinalist in the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Lauren hopes to inspire others through her performances, and participates in outreach and benefit concerts whenever possible.



Kevin Wittenberg

Longmont, CO, Niwot High School
College Plans: Harvard College

Kevin thrives when his plate is full. He finds himself constantly involved in some interest or another, and wouldn’t have it any other way. These include Boy Scouts, theater, youth group, track and field, trivia, debate, piano, peer tutoring, and occasionally settling down with a book. His high level of energy and passion in each of these areas has allowed him to be involved in each with great depth. This passion, deeply rooted in the desire to discover, has led to his bibliophilia and his involvement on the Knowledge Bowl team at his high school which placed 2nd in state last year. His greatest source of inspiration is his twin brother, for whom Kevin has a great amount of respect and love. Kevin hopes to find a career in which he can change the world for the better; whether this means medicine, teaching, or another degree; only time will tell.



Reed Wommack

Yarmouth, ME, Yarmouth High School
College Plans: Brown University

I once wrote an autobiographical ABCs book that perfectly summed up my entire life in twenty-six letters. I’ve never shared it with anyone before, but here it goes: Agnosticism-Brother-Chinese-Dormiendo-Environmental science-Field marshall-Gro Flatebo-Honda-Invasive species-John Steinbeck-Kent Wommack-Lisp-Marlins-Nature conservancy-Ornithology-Pitcher-Queensland-Reedulous-Skiing!-Techno music-Utilitarianism-Viking blood-Wasp-X-rays-Yarmouth-Zip files. My book never got published, so for the time being, my life story sits collecting dust on my bookcase, waiting for Volume II.

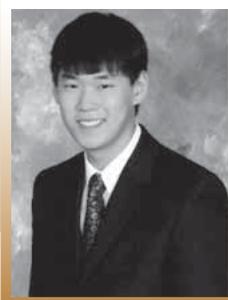


Angela Woods

Carrollton, KY, Carroll County High School

College Plans: Duke University

I like to think of myself as strictly logical, yet I have a proclivity for spontaneity that I would never want to relinquish. I prefer “going with the flow” rather than following a rigid schedule. I never compromise my morals, but I respect others’ beliefs and possess an extremely open mind. I love meeting new people and could, according to an interviewer I once had, strike up a conversation with a lamppost. (Imagine all the engaging stories it could narrate!) My life is a conglomeration of God, family, friends, academics, sports, music (flute and piano), dance, and laughter. I see the glass as half-full and view life as an adventure filled with opportunities to be utilized to better oneself, so as to eventually apply one’s knowledge and experience to better the world.



Evan Wu

Corvallis, OR, Crescent Valley High School

College Plans: Harvard College

Always excited to explore, learn, and help out, Evan has succeeded in a wide-spectrum of activities and has taken on a multitude of responsibilities. As a musician, he has won numerous statewide honors in both piano and cello and, last year, led his school orchestra to a state title. As a school and community leader, he plays varsity tennis, organizes weekly music for area soup kitchens, advocates for the homeless as an intern in the mayor’s office of his city, and has served on the State Superintendent’s Youth Advisory Team, the Corvallis Youth Symphony Association Board of Directors, and as class president. As a young scholar, he maintains a 4.0 GPA, has studied abroad for a semester in Cambridge, England, and has conducted research at Oregon State University. Evan was recently named his city’s Future First Citizen. He looks forward to studying biophysics, economics, and a little bit of everything in college.



Adele Xu

Shanghai, China, St. Paul’s School

College Plans: Stanford University

Adele always has trouble explaining where she is from, but will take a stab at it anyway: After growing up in Delaware, moving to Shanghai and attending St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire, she is ecstatic to add California to her list of places to call home next year. In addition to traveling, Adele also enjoys covering long distances of a different kind with her varsity cross-country, track, and Nordic ski teams. When stationary, Adele paints, draws, plays the violin, and tutors fellow students in a variety of subjects. She has served as an editor of her school newspaper, insulated houses for Habitat for Humanity in Mississippi, and taught English to migrant workers’ children in Shanghai. As a future Human Biology major, Adele is fascinated by biology and philosophy and hopes to pursue the study of biomedical ethics.



Emily Yang

Newark, DE, Charter School of Wilmington

College Plans: Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Demonstrating an analytical yet creative mindset early on, Emily enjoys taking on a challenge, a drive that inspired her pursuit of engineering in college. Participating in traditional Chinese folk dance since kindergarten, she has since then become head teaching assistant of the CACC Chinese Folk Dance Troupe, which has performed at such venues as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. As a cellist, she has played with Delaware’s All-State Orchestra as principal cellist as well as at the All-Eastern Orchestra, among other ensembles. In addition, Emily still finds time to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House of DE and play singles on Charter’s varsity tennis team. Last summer, she worked on two research projects at the University of Delaware. One was with the Animal and Food Science Department, and the other, entitled “The Utilization of Mobility for Socialization in Children with Special Needs,” involved collaboration between the Departments of Physical Therapy and Mechanical Engineering.

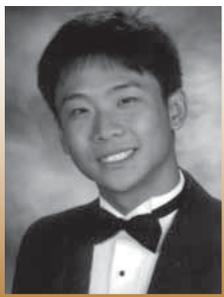


Sharif Youssef

West Liberty, WV, Wheeling Park High School

College plans: Yale University

I stared blankly at my computer for ten minutes thinking of ideas for this bio. Speaking my mind is not normally a trying task for me. I am a triple state champion, a national octa-finalist, and the winningest member in my speech team’s history. I act, sing, write and study. I have received awards and recognitions for doing so—but I am no nerd... I prefer the term “Intellectual Player”. I am ambitious, learning invaluable lessons from failure as well as success. As a dual citizen of The United States and Egypt, I have lived in another country and spoken another language. I love The Beatles... a lot. I am a leader. I am a learner. I am a lover. The world is daunting yet exciting—I am eager for the places I will go and the memories I will make as I venture forth.



Scott Yu

*Rockville, MD, Montgomery Blair High School
College Plans: Harvard College*

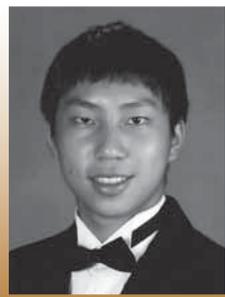
Like one of his favorite poets, William Blake, Scott agrees that “contraries” are essential to a happy and meaningful life. Seeking always to diversify his interests and take on new experiences, Scott often feels himself tugged in many directions at once (thankfully, it’s not too painful)—toward Spanish, economics, concert piano, and basketball, to name a few. All of these directions will sometimes compete to fill up that hour of free time in the afternoon. Scott attends the Science, Math, and Computer Science Magnet Program at school but, at the same time, is an ardent student of the humanities, serving as captain of the Lincoln-Douglass debate team and spending much time with English literature. Scott currently doesn’t know what he wants to be when he grows up, but he is sure that whatever he chooses to do in the future, he will love it.



Wendy Zeng

*Golden, CO, Lakewood Senior High School
College Plans: Cornell University*

I love to challenge myself in all aspects of life. My curiosity in nature fueled my love of math, chemistry, and physics. I enjoy music, arts, sports, and school activities. As founder and president of Math Club, I led our math team to win our school’s first and subsequent math trophies and created a math tutoring program to help students with math concepts. I enjoy working in communications as editor, reporter, and writer in our school’s newspaper, as well as the daily news video anchor, and as a debater. As president of Piano Club, I organized and performed in piano concerts at nursing homes with my piano club and music quintet. I love ballet and dancing on my school’s step team, and I enjoy tennis, soccer, swimming, and hiking. I hope to have a career in education that specializes in math, and to teach future generations of students to promote excellence in math.



Henry T. Zhu

*Chevy Chase, MD, Landon School
College Plans: Stanford University*

I have always striven to reconcile and synthesize the various interests in my life. A precocious learner, I became adept with numbers at an early age; however, I eventually unearthed a more reflective, imaginative side, living vicariously through others’ or my own writing. My methodical yet creative nature has made me into a musician, athlete, yearbook editor-in-chief, teacher, international newspaper columnist, accomplished essayist, and inventor. A fervent xenophile, I have studied three languages intensively since the age of ten and traveled throughout the world. During summer-long stays in China, I have taken college classes, taught English to senior citizens, conducted linguistics research, and composed music in numerical and modern notation. As a varsity athlete in cross country and track (captain), I combine passion, technique and strategy into my running. Step by step, I hope to live my life to the fullest, bridging the gap between seemingly different pursuits.



Garrett Zwahlen

*Oklahoma City, OK, Casady School
College Plans: University of Pennsylvania*

Garrett is hungry for knowledge and new experiences. He loves to meet new people, visit new places, laugh, and have fun. He is a three sport letterman in football, wrestling and track. As captain of the wrestling team, he was an All Conference All Star in 2010, and a National Prep qualifier, as well as All Conference in Track. He is a standout leader, currently serving as President of Student Council, Eagle Scout, and Youth Group VP. He was also selected to serve on Youth Council of Oklahoma City as a Ward representative. Garrett is fascinated by business, economics, technology, and politics, which are reflected in his choice of college for next year. He is very excited to attend the prestigious Jerome Fisher Program in Management and Technology at the University of Pennsylvania where he will receive both a B.S. in Engineering and a B.S. in Economics/Finance from Penn’s Wharton School of Business.

2010 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS BY STATE

**U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts*

Alabama

Gary K. Gray
Elizabeth W. Reiser

Alaska

Madeleine C. Bulkow
Alexander M. Krolick

Americans Abroad

Darren P. Eldredge
Adele F. Xu

Arizona

Morgan E. Whitaker
Daniel P. Fried

Arkansas

Emily E. Foltz
Aidan M. Baker

California

Michael A. Silberblatt*
Pooja K. Shah
Sean M. Plumb*
Alexander P. Welton

Colorado

Erica E. Vlahinos*
Preston G. So
Wendy S. Zeng
Kevin T. Wittenberg

Connecticut

Evan A. Brown
Sarah H. Gustafson

Delaware

Emily P. Yang
Daniel A. Sullivan

District of Columbia

Nicole A. Cacoza
Paul Wasserman

Florida

Brooke M. Griffin
Tyler C. Laprade
Blaine A. Krauss*
Patrick G. Mangan

Georgia

Ross C. Beppler
My Ngoc C. To
Alexander S. Vollmer*
Matthew G. Faulkner

Hawaii

Nolan M. Kamitaki
Caitlin E. Mori

Idaho

Karl T. Schutz
Alyson M. Gigger

Illinois

Nicole M. Wenger
Jacob U. Arber
Lauren R. Williams*

Indiana

Michael L. Wang
Lauren H. Stephens
Lynelle T. Chen

Iowa

Natalie E. Weires
Ethan Budreau

Kansas

Stephen M. Fox
Andrea N. Hinton

Kentucky

Angela R. Woods
Horace R. Hambrick
Suraj Kannan

Louisiana

Daniel L. Comeaux
Marjorie E. Bateman

Maine

Reed W. Wommack
Dakota R. Snyder

Maryland

Henry T. Zhu
Richard Li
Marissa C. Dearing
Scott S. Yu

Massachusetts

Katrina D. Malakhoff
Bobby S. Chen*
Russel R. McAvoy

Michigan

Bernard J. VanBerkum
Nicole L. Black

Minnesota

Raj M. Katti
Emma Lucken
Martin A. Camacho

Mississippi

Andrew G. Li
Ann A. Burrell

Missouri

Joy Q. He
Alan J. Hatfield

Montana

Brooks B. Hallin
Allison A. Ray

Nebraska

Maesen A. Churchill
Wyatt N. Troia

Nevada

Seth C. Thompson
Heidi H. Lim

New Hampshire

Harrison M. Potter
Jillian L. Peters
Samita Mohanasundaram

New Jersey

Dedeepya Konuthula
Joseph C. Schiavone
David E. Kersen

New Mexico

Steven M. Ammerman
Erin A. Mauldin

New York

Luke J. Celenza*
Yvette S. Leung
Phoebe B. Nir*
Paul M. Mains

North Carolina

Megan E. Mikhail
Kelley A. Katzenmeyer*
Gregory R. Izatt
Saumil A. Jariwala

North Dakota

Phoebe Strom
Daniel P. Gillund

Ohio

Joseph V. Calland
Alison C. Boyd

Oklahoma

Abbee B. Cox
Garrett L. Zwahlen

Oregon

Evan Wu
Torin M. Rudeen
Eva H. Koeller

Pennsylvania

Cody M. Wild
Benjamin Lei

Puerto Rico

Alan B. Wagner
Talia Rothenberg

Rhode Island

Diana D. Chin
David R. Tong

South Carolina

Aric W. Berning
Jake G. Ross*
Anne V. Cai
Uchechi G. Kalu*

South Dakota

Derek S. Christensen
Kiah M. Schaeftbauer

Tennessee

Lauren M. Coleman
Ian S. Ball

Texas

Michael R. Taylor*
Matthew A. Brailas*
John A. Goss*
Marissa A. Ruehle
Connor Watumull*
Ellen Liu
Austin Goodwin*
Ida Saki*
Austin M. Taylor*
David G. Crouse
Robert M. Moore Jr.*

Utah

Anne J. Wang
Samuel S. Brinton
Uyen-Phuong N. Nguyen

Vermont

Kevin M. Weiss
Anna G. Quinlan

Virginia

Grace J. Wang
Nicholas J. Loftus

Washington

Kelsey M. Moser
Derrick F. Petrin
Jennifer E. Schmidt

West Virginia

Katherine L. Jarrell
Sharif I. Youssef

Wisconsin

Bryan Dongre
Valerie Shen

Wyoming

Kaiser A. Mock
Megan A. Jenkins

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Characterized by their interest in community issues and compassion for those in need, the U.S. Presidential Scholars have actively reached out to others. Service has played a significant role in their development and is prominent in their future plans.

Steven Ammerman

New Mexico

A visit with my mother to an elementary school where most children qualified for free lunches was an eye-opening experience for me. Fearing that these children would not have enough to eat once they returned home, I asked my mother to help me make a difference. The presentation at our first visit to the food bank was extremely motivational; from my comfortable situation in life, I could not have previously imagined the large percentage of New Mexico's children living under the poverty threshold (and habitually missing meals) or the struggles of the elderly, who are faced with choosing between buying food or paying for rent, medicines, and utilities. Since then, I volunteer at that food bank as much as possible in an attempt to be part of a solution. My tasks include sorting and re-packing donated foods and assembling backpacks and boxes that meet the special nutritional needs of the aforementioned disadvantaged groups. It is a tad ironic that a rather menial job, often the source of backache, and always sweat-inducing, should be one of my favorite activities. However, at the end of each session, I leave with a smile on my face and the satisfaction of having done something selfless and worthy.

Marjorie Bateman

Louisiana

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana provides an outlet for my love of world history and allows me the chance to interact with World War II veterans, who volunteer with me and visit the museum. They remind me of my late grandfather, a World War II reconnaissance pilot, and they share their poignant wartime experiences. Sometimes I serve as a general museum volunteer and other times as a volunteer for Kids' Corner. As a general volunteer, I work as a ticket taker, a theater usher and at the information desk. At Kids' Corner, youth volunteers, like me, staff an area with World War II related crafts and activities that we do with the children who visit the museum. I love sharing my interest in World War II and admiration of its heroes with a younger generation. The crafts and games include simulated riveting in tribute to Rosie the Riveter, planting seeds for a Victory garden, and building Higgins boats. I especially enjoy the Morse Code activity: children and veterans alike try the code box. Educating children about World War II, through games and activities, brings the past alive for them and makes history fun.

Nicole Black

Michigan

Without the experience of helping out others in their times of need, we cannot truly appreciate those who have helped us to get to where we are at today. As co-president of my school's chapter of the National Honor Society, I organized a variety of events to give back to our school and community. Among these was founding a group called "Bead the Need," which used my own talent of jewelry making to give women a greater sense of strength and pride in their lives. After collecting donated supplies, we made fifty pieces in the first few meetings to donate to a local abused women's shelter, and we continue to make them for the American Cancer Society and other causes. On top of this activity, my love of animals has motivated me to walk dogs at a local Humane Society, and my loves of engineering and math have encouraged me to tutor children in math and mentor LEGO robotics teams. Everyone has a unique talent that they can use to contribute to society—just discover your passion and find a way to use it to change the world for the better.

Alison Boyd

Ohio

Throughout my four years at Shaker Heights High School, I have been involved in the Youth Ending Hunger/Interact club. In my sophomore year I was the treasurer, and in my junior and senior years I have served as president. As part of this organization, I have had the opportunity to help others less fortunate than myself by serving meals at St. Tim's Soup Kitchen, stocking shelves at the community food bank, handing out groceries at a local hunger center, and visiting with families at the Hospice of the Western Reserve. Additionally, I have organized fundraisers such as a faculty/student basketball game and countless bake sales and pizza sales so that the club could contribute to causes such as Harvest for Hunger. This year I organized a campaign called Hearts for Haiti in which our student body raised \$1000 to send to victims of the Haitian earthquake. My experiences volunteering through the Interact club have enabled me to give back to my community and helped me to make the world a better place. More importantly, however, my role as the leader of this group has given me the opportunity to get fellow students excited about helping others so that they, too, can work to make positive changes in our world.

Samuel Brinton

Utah

One morning last fall, my Arabic teacher announced to the class that there was an urgent need for an Arabic-speaking volunteer in our community. I eagerly raised my hand, not fully knowing the incredible experiences that awaited me. Since that time, there has been a huge influx of Arabic-speaking immigrants to the Salt Lake City area, and most do not speak English. At the Asian Association of Utah where many of these people come to receive help with the basic necessities of life, I assist with translation, resumé assistance, and tutoring. Recently, a non-English-speaking woman from Iraq brought a Rental Credit Application to me. She needed help as she didn't understand what she needed to do to find housing for her family. As Americans, we take for granted the ease of filling out a rental form. For this woman, it was terrifying, as her family was depending on her to find a place to live. As we completed the form, she had a big smile on her face and repeatedly uttered "shokran" (thank you) to me. Her form was accepted, and she now has housing. It is gratifying to know that my efforts have made a difference in these people's lives.

Anne Cai

South Carolina

As a service leader for Rise Up and Read, I recruit one-on-one volunteer tutors for at-risk inner-city students between the first and sixth grades. I've tutored at RUAR weekly for four years, and I've always been excited to help them understand what they're learning by using new methods. Bayli, one of my regular tutorees, has severe dyslexia and ADHD, and prefers to hide in her room and avoid everyone aside from her pets. Missing one session could set us back a month, but we would always steadily build up again with various methods until something worked—reading word by word using a flashcard with a small rectangular hole, repeating phonics exercises until familiarity overcame her dyslexia, or doubling reading time as she repeated each sentence after me. Following my suggestion to picture characters as suitable animals by personality, Bayli now wants to be a veterinarian, and she directs energy into her own goal to surmount her difficulties. As I realized the students lacked exposure to current events, I implemented a news segment at the beginning of each week. Through my articles for the local newspaper, I recruited more volunteers to help with the RUAR kids continuing on after I graduate. Next year, I'll miss those weekly times sitting in yellow plastic chairs, designing learning games, and I'll miss my tutorees, who feel like the younger siblings that I, as an only child, never had.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Joseph Calland

Ohio

I spent my summer on a playground. More specifically, I devoted over 200 hours to the task of researching, designing, and building a playground for the struggling Tray Lee Community Center, which is located in the middle of a neighborhood built entirely by Habitat for Humanity. After interviewing contractors, storeowners, and architects, as well as borrowing tools and buying several truckloads of supplies, I finally completed a freestanding platform around a tree with a spiral slide, monkey bars, a ladder, and, perhaps most importantly, a railing. The Center was run by a group of incredibly dedicated people who worked to provide disadvantaged children with guidance and support in a world that did not offer enough, and it is an organization that I am eternally glad to have worked with. I am truly proud to say that I helped by building something that would bring fun to the kids who were growing up in a place geographically close to, and yet worlds apart from, my own.

Bobby Chen

Massachusetts

Community dedication has transformed me into a construction worker by day and music teacher by night, teaching me that we are never alone and can always rely on others' helping hands for guidance. I spent the summer of 2008 constructing hurricane-sturdy houses in New Orleans for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Building all day alongside fellow traveling volunteers, professional construction workers, and even local Louisianans felt like a family event, and I learned not only to appreciate those close to me, but to also welcome those with shared goals as friends and family. I will never forget finishing the first house and seeing a family's joyful tears erupting down their gleaming, smiling cheeks: Never again would this family take a home for granted. Having taught underprivileged children in Lawrence to play musical instruments for the past four years, I have also learned to appreciate the little things in life. Sometimes I get caught up and frustrated when my musical endeavors as a cellist hit rough spots, but seeing my students rejoice every week when they get to touch a violin reminds me that success can sometimes be material, but passion and love shared with others is priceless.

Derek Christensen

South Dakota

Through the years I have participated in a variety of community service projects, but the one that affected me the most was the trip I took to Parkersburg, Iowa. My church youth group left the comfortable town of Lennox to head to Parkersburg, a town damaged by an F5 tornado. I was able to meet people directly impacted by the tornado, and I could see that although it had changed their lives, they had still kept their faith. Not only did my group build a garage for a family whose home had been destroyed, but we also built a relationship with the people we were helping. It was a week that I gained strength in my faith in God and the goodness of people. It was an experience that shall never be forgotten.

Maesen Churchill

Nebraska

As a freshman, I got involved in Peer Network, a club at my school that connects special education students with regular education students for a number of activities. One of the main things that the club does is convene every Thursday for Lunch Bunch in the special education wing. I met Haley at Lunch Bunch. She was a quiet girl with a sweet smile and a passion for baking. Haley and I quickly formed a relationship when I started to coach my school's Special Olympics basketball team. She became a team leader, always encouraging others. However, talking with Haley, I realized that her favorite sport was actually tennis. Coincidentally, so is mine. Haley and I started practicing tennis during the summer of 2008, and entered in the state Special Olympics tennis tournament as a unified doubles team. We won a silver medal that year. The following summer, our tennis squad expanded to include two other unified pairs. This summer Haley will be competing in the Special Olympics 2010 National Games. I will be cheering her on. Participating as a unified partner in Special Olympics taught me to encourage and admire, to lead and to trust.

Daniel Comeaux

Louisiana

This summer, I volunteered to work with young children at the Thensted Center, a local community outreach organization. I came armed with camp songs and a detailed schedule of what we would do. I had analyzed the situation and I was ready. The kids walked in; my plans walked out! After struggling through "Apples and Bananas," I knew it was time to change strategy. So, I improvised. I looked through my iPod, found a few songs, and held a spontaneous dance-off. I lost. I led them in line dances around the room. Eventually, I, along with the kids, convinced the directors to join us in the "Cupid Shuffle." Everything was unstructured, unplanned, and thoroughly enjoyable. What drew me to the Thensted Center was the chance to help those children who might otherwise slip through the cracks. I thought I could aid them through structure and definition, but what I discovered was they truly needed someone who cared, someone with whom they could have fun. Whether they were playing games, reading books, or even building volcanoes with baking soda and vinegar, the children were joyful. I looked around the room and saw them beaming; I smiled too.

Abbee Cox

Oklahoma

Though I have participated in various community service activities, I am most proud of being the student spokesperson for the 2009 Lawton Public Schools Bond Election Campaign. I was thoroughly involved in every aspect of this campaign, from the planning stages to calling community members the day before the vote. The proposal had two components—a sales tax increase and a bond. Unfortunately, only the former passed, but the funds raised by this tax will indeed ease the financial woes of our insolvent school district. Many wondered why I worked so diligently on this campaign, since I am nearing graduation. However, I felt passionately compelled to serve the school system that molded me into the woman I am today. Also, though I supported this cause for the sake of future students of my community, my service also improved me personally. The many speeches I gave developed my public speaking ability, while interacting with community leaders made me more comfortable around those of older generations and showed me the importance of networking. Regardless of our somewhat limited success, working on this campaign was truly an experience I will never forget.

David Crouse

Texas

One Saturday afternoon when I was ten years old, I stepped through the doors of the Shoes for Orphan Souls warehouse. The smell of shoe leather and cardboard hung in the air as I was conducted with the other volunteers to a table in front of an old television. The images I saw on that screen were forever burned into my mind. I saw suffering for the first time; I witnessed despair unlike any I had ever seen. Then, I saw pure, unadulterated hope streaming from a child's eyes. He had been given a pair of shoes, the first thing he could call his own. When I learned how many orphans hadn't been reached, I knew I had to help. I put my hands to work sorting and packing shoes. Two years later, I was appointed a captain in charge of leading other volunteers. My two hands were multiplied into twenty. Over the eight years I have served with Shoes for Orphan Souls, I have touched hundreds of thousands of pairs of shoes. That means that I have had a hand in providing hundreds of thousands of children with shoes, with comfort, and, most importantly, with hope.

Bryan Dongre

Wisconsin

My community service commitment led me to volunteer at an elder care center. During the first few weekends, I passed by numerous rooms where residents were inside all day. Some could not move since they were attached to life support equipment while others had resigned themselves to a solitary lifestyle. Seeing their plight left me feeling disheartened and I felt a need to cheer them up. Music in the form of the viola has been a gift from the heart that I enjoy sharing, so I decided to bring my repertoire to play for these room-bound residents. I found this to be an exhilarating experience which I began to enjoy. I spent several hours of my weekends making sojourns to the center. My endeavors led me to include other musicians so that we could reach out to more senior residents. As the founder of the Young Ambassadors of Music, I was able to apply my leadership to inspire and motivate other musicians. We noticed that the residents were more enthusiastic and eagerly anticipated our visits. Their smiles and gratitude kept us coming back. This was truly the most profoundly enriching and rewarding experience I have ever had.

Stephen Fox

Kansas

Inclement weather had prevented my classmates and me from beginning our senior service projects the previous week. After three weeks of Christmas break, we were unaccustomed to waking up early and groggily met in the lobby of Trails West State School. Before we could catch up on one another's breaks, the students began to arrive. Their wide smiles contrasted sharply with my classmates' and my stupor. By lunchtime, I could tell that the students had made a marked difference in our general attitude. Working with the developmentally disabled had certainly taken an emotional toll on our group and it was difficult to accept that the students with whom we were working would never be afforded the same opportunities that we so regularly took for granted. Yet, the optimism and enthusiasm that the students of Trails West put into every simple activity was incredibly infectious. How could we complain about our comparably insignificant issues when these young men and women found joy in the midst of their daily struggles?

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Austin Goodwin

Texas

Through Boy Scouts of America I have accomplished many community service projects and understood the value behind giving back to the community. Each of us had to plan, and execute a community service project in order to receive our Eagle Scout award. We each decided it would be easiest to accomplish all of this if we helped each other. I was the youngest in my troop and it was an incredible experience to work on a video center for the burn center at Children's Hospital, clean up an old historic grave yard from the early 1600s, build rocking horses for the kids at the cancer hospital, restore historic signs describing a specific site from years past, and complete my own Eagle Scout project—repairing donated bicycles for Jonathan's Place, a home for abused children. All of these experiences helped me to look outside myself, especially during some of my own difficulties and focus on those who needed my service more than I expected.

Gary Kenneth Gray

Alabama

My junior year, I spent my workstudy volunteering at UAB's 1917 HIV/AIDS Clinic. I spent most of my time as clinic host; basically, I was a greeter and computer assistant for the patients. My visits were a bittersweet experience. The clinic was shockingly busy and filled with a motley group of people; none of them fulfilled the stereotypes of HIV+ people. I saw people who were bourgeois and people who were homeless, parents and children, loved and abandoned. I always tried to talk to patients. I could never muster much more than a "hello" because I could never think of anything meaningful to say to those who had been so incomprehensibly condemned. Yet their bravery was heartrendingly amazing. As with any experience, I had failures and successes. I particularly remember one woman. She was young and always alone. She seemed broken by her diagnosis in a way few were. But my own weakness prevented me from ever learning her name, hearing her speak, even waving. I failed her worse than I ever failed anyone. I could never have done much for her but could have at least *tried*. Her tragic sorrow shadows me in punishment but remains the most valuable benefit of my workstudy experience.

Sarah Gustafson

Connecticut

I have committed to A Better Chance as Co-President of the Student Board. I joined this group years ago while it struggled, unsure of its purpose, disconnected from the students it serves. My experience in politics taught me that the best and most mutually beneficial gift is time. With that lesson in mind, under my leadership, the Board is changing to include the students not as objects of the discussion, but as partners in the solution: a support-system of allies from across the high school spectrum with the tools to help them explore their opportunities. The Board has grown from 5 to 25 members; the ABC students, who needed a committed partner to help negotiate and widen their world, enthusiastically attend our meetings and provide input. I am proud that the union of Student Board and Students, heterogeneous and dedicated, has become a rare pocket of diversity in Wilton, Connecticut.

Horace Rhodes Hambrick

Kentucky

Doing mission work in Hell's Kitchen NYC last spring over my Spring Break was one of the most enlightening, humbling, and life-altering experiences of my life. I tried to prepare myself to "see" the homeless and the destitute, but actually entering into relationships with those who are in dire need transformed my perception of the world. The most awe-inspiring morning was the one spent at the Holy Apostle's Soup Kitchen serving lunch to the homeless. Seeing over a thousand people enjoy a warm meal in the midst of smiles and conversation was heartwarming. The sanctuary of the church was like home to them. The homeless were called "guests" and treated as such. Amazingly, my church youth group had to sign up weeks in advance for the privilege of serving there! There really are many, many in this world who care for "the least of these," and I am glad to be able to count myself among that number, for that afternoon gave me a glimpse of what I am sure heaven must look like. "Sacrificing" my spring break in order to serve others was immensely more satisfying than any sun-splashed week at the beach could ever have been.

Alan Hatfield

Missouri

They represent our national heritage and a legacy of courage in the face of oppression, yet we as Americans rarely take the time to give our veterans their just recognition and reverence. It wasn't until my parents decided to drag me out of a summer slumber in 5th grade that I began to appreciate veterans for who they truly are. In the summer of 2003 I began volunteering on the third floor in the Community Living Center at the Harry S Truman VA Hospital. In this VA "nursing home," most of the residents are elderly patients who need assistance with some of the most basic daily tasks. The prospect of days spent passing out iced water, replenishing linen closets, and wheeling vets around wasn't exciting to me at first, yet once I made connections with the veterans, I conquered my apathy and reluctance to sacrifice my own time and effort for their sakes. They became living American symbols, vibrant examples who reflected America's ideals just as much the Statue of Liberty or any Presidential Monument does. For six summers, I have given over 250 hours of friendship and service to honor their legacy. My service to them is not optional; it is a necessity.

Andrea Hinton

Kansas

I remember the day of my first piano recital. I was six years old and my hands were clammy when I walked to the tiny upright piano on stage. This anxiety became my dutiful accompanist in all my performances, so when I was approached at the age of fifteen to become the first and lead pianist for my church's small worship team, I was more than a bit nervous. I barely knew what I was getting into when I replied yes, but I did know that there was a spot to be filled, and that I had the knowledge to capably fill that spot. In a whirlwind transition, my weekends suddenly consisted of rehearsing, performing, and mentoring new band members. The work was not at all easy, and there were times where I longed to return to my lazy days. However, the sense of community fostered by both the cohesiveness of the band and the outreach to the congregation was unparalleled. In these four years of service, I have seen people whose lives changed because of their worship experiences, and their stories have made every minute of hard work worth the struggle.

Gregory Izatt

North Carolina

There is little else in my high-school career that I've enjoyed quite as much as the Science Olympiad—so when I heard that my school was planning on hosting an Elementary-level Science Olympiad tournament, it seemed only natural for me to take part. A group of other students and I put together a slew of plans and events, and we helped run the second annual tournament in mid-April, hosting twelve teams—which amounted to several hundred people—and scoring their members' performance on a wide range of science-related tests and activities. When my little brother participated in my school's 2009 tournament, he was, it suffices to say, rather excited, and absolutely loved it. I saw precisely the same sort of excitement and passion for the competition and, more importantly, for science in general in many of this year's kids. The head organizer for the event received dozens of compliments and thank-yous from parents and coaches from each of the schools, and I have a feeling that a lot of those students are now geared up to participate in the (incredibly rewarding!) middle school Science Olympiad as soon as they're in the right grade.

Saumil Jariwala

North Carolina

Boy Scouts are told from Day One of their Scouting careers to “Do a Good Turn Daily,” but surprisingly these young men often forget to turn an eye to the very organization that encourages them to go out and serve the community. In my Troop, I noticed that one in two Scouts who joined our Troop would leave by the end of the first year. The problem lay with the difficulty for these new Scouts to integrate into the Troop community, and the solution I proposed, while simple, was effective: I pioneered a system whereby new Scouts could get to know each other and bond through community-building activities. During my three-year tenure, I acted as a mentor to all of the new Scouts who joined the Troop, and I helped unify them not only to each other but to our entire Scouting community. I have now had the pleasure of attending many of the Eagle ceremonies for the Scouts I originally mentored, and it has been awe-inspiring to see the growth they have undergone. While I know I am not responsible for all of the transformation, it has been exciting to know that I have at least been a part of it. Most of all, I appreciate the fact that something I started has gained a life of its own and will continue to serve even after I leave the Troop.

Katherine Jarrell

West Virginia

During the summer of 2009, I began working at a free clinic called Health Rite. This clinic caters to the “working poor” and boasts several volunteer physicians, dentists, and nurses. Hoping to enter the health care industry, I knew that volunteering at Health Rite would be a great opportunity for experience, but I had no idea how rewarding, eye-opening, and amazing this opportunity would really be. I had the unique opportunity of interacting with nearly every patient who came in to Health Rite, because part of my duties involved working at the front desk. Each day, I met new people and learned about their heartbreakingly sad stories. While many of these stories were almost unbearable to hear, they were also very inspirational. Learning of the hardships of others motivated me to do more to give back to others. The experiences I have had at Health Rite gave me a new sense of determination and a drive for the future. While the impact of a place like Health Rite cannot be measured by statistics or facts, one can observe the improvement in patients' quality of life.

Nolan Kamitaki

Hawaii

Is anyone listening? That is the question I asked myself many a muggy Friday afternoon when I played classical pieces on an upright piano at the Life Care Center in Hilo. After every piece there was a brief round of applause—mostly from the nurses—and an occasional smile. I've read the same popular science articles that everyone has, the ones that say listening to classical music has good physiological effects and stimulates the brain. So I continued this routine religiously over the last couple years with the hope that the music might be therapeutic for the patients and that my time spent would be beneficial. Only after reflecting for a bit, did I realize that perhaps the benefit went both ways; playing music freely with no expectations has allowed me to relax and feel more confident about my own music. Perhaps it was also I who was listening.

Suraj Kannan

Kentucky

My religion has always been an important part of my life; thus, one of the greatest sources of pride in my life is the ability to give back to my religious community and to the Temple. Since I was in fourth grade, I participated in a number of community service projects at the Temple, ranging from running charity sales to cleaning and painting. When the Temple was in between administrators and having difficulty with certain aspects of management, I used my skills in Microsoft Office to help the administration organize and maintain the necessary information and data; the systems and databases that I designed are still used extensively to this day. My Temple and my faith has not only given me the courage to take on some of the hardest challenges of my life, but it has also given me a sense of identity within my community; for this reason, I feel that it is my responsibility to ensure the maintenance of the Temple.

Dedeepya Konuthula

New Jersey

As the Community Service Chair of my high school's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America, I was lucky enough to have opportunities to help many people. In November, we went to the Madison Center, a local nursing home, to help out with their Thanksgiving Brunch. It was just supposed to be a one-time event; members helped set up, serve, and clean up, among other things. Although some of our volunteers were *slightly* surprised to find themselves singing the unicorn song to a crowd of very appreciative senior citizens, they were gratified to see how easily and warmly these often neglected individuals responded to just a little bit of attention. Perhaps it was the warm and fuzzy feeling that kept us going back to the Madison Center. In fact, we returned in December to help set up and decorate their Christmas trees, and again later that month to put up the paper snowflakes that had been created by eager, inspired members. I can speak for all of the students in my committee when I say that we gained more from our visits than the excited people we went to see; nobody should ever be forgotten.

Blaine Krauss

Florida

As cliché as I thought it would sound, I never knew how fulfilling giving back to my community would be. The majority of teenagers my age get "pulled" into community service through a high school requirement. My involvement with the Boys and Girls Club happened accidentally, but is now a permanent and proud stain on my life. I am fortunate to have a great Boys and Girls Club located near my house, and being passionate about theater and the arts, I am even more fortunate that this facility is the only arts related club throughout the branches of Boys and Girls Clubs in the nation. It is there that I was able to use my skills as an artist and teach my craft to those younger than me. In an underdeveloped community, there aren't many options for children at a young age to do anything positive, let alone opportunities that allow their creative minds to explore. It is humbling and a blessing to be able to influence children at such prime moments in their lives, as well as be able to show them that they can be destined for something greater than what society has given. This honor was so grand that I volunteered at the club (Royal Theatre Arts Academy) for over a year and continue to lend my support and guidance to this very day. Through this I have discovered my inherent drive to create and influence social change, a passion that will now be with me throughout my entire life.

Heidi Lim

Nevada

Add 2,300 paper cups, 100 gallons of water, and 50 freezing cold National Honor Society members and you get Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Station 13, the only water station headed by a teenager: me! At 5 AM in the dark, we pulled from the supply truck tables and trash bins, and placed them along the quarter mile station. With numb fingers, we slowly started filling the first 500 cups. With the toasty sunlight came the elite runners, all in impossibly skimpy uniforms, who were followed by a tidal wave of runners, joggers, and walkers. We swept the crushed cups out of the path, handed out water, and cheered our hearts out. Between giant gulps of heavenly water, runners thanked us for volunteering, for giving our time to help someone else. That gratitude is what keeps me going, and what makes me proud to be a volunteering leader.

Ellen Liu

Texas

With a desire to share knowledge with fellow students, I started my volunteer work by peer tutoring. Gradually, my desire grew into a passion to make a difference and to discover. Besides the regular summer activities, I devoted much of my time to a very special organization called Skills for Living (S4L). There, I helped at-risk, underprivileged high school students learn life skills, create college dreams, and turn their dreams into reality. Having matured from team leader to founder and president of my own organization, Youth for Skills for Living, I still constantly challenge myself to find new opportunities to serve by answering late night homework phone calls, by working with a broken arm, by fundraising at night in the pouring rain, and by inspiring followers to become leaders themselves. Through service, we, together, discover our ultimate treasure: humanity.

Nicholas Loftus

Virginia

Last summer, I volunteered to help construct houses in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans for families still displaced by Hurricane Katrina. My high school sponsored the immersion program in which we lived within the community while helping to rebuild it. In keeping with the privations suffered by the residents, we slept on the floor of a classroom, ate sparingly, and worked seven hours a day in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. Before we could even begin construction, we had to clear the mountain of debris and sand that the floodwaters had left behind four years earlier. Surrounded by desolation and destruction, I finally understood the natural disaster that had occurred in New Orleans was really the unfortunate accumulation of circumstances that could have potentially wiped out the city in its totality. Between the troublesome geography, lack of money to rehabilitate an already inadequate levee system, and ineffective federal disaster planning response, New Orleans had suffered far worse than it should have. I'll return to rebuild another house with my class next summer in what I anticipate will be a lifelong pursuit of serving those who can benefit, in any small way, from the help I learn to provide.

Emma Lucken

Minnesota

"Coach Emma! Did you see that? I did a lay-up with my LEFT HAND!" "Good job," I reply as I high-five the boy beaming up at me. I'd been helping Erik practice his lay-ups for a week, and it was rewarding to see his pride when he finally mastered the skill. As a volunteer coach and referee of soccer and basketball, I enjoy combining my love of children and sports by teaching others. I find satisfaction in passing on the knowledge I have acquired from my parents, coaches and teachers: practice, work together, have fun and you will succeed. My commitment to coaching team sports provides children with life lessons they can apply to achieve success in many areas. I also learn lessons of my own: watching these little kids struggle determinedly to complete basic tasks like dribbling or passing teaches me that success isn't defined by great honors or awards, but rather by the fortitude to keep trying despite repeated failure and the ability to find happiness in the small things, whether a compliment from a coach, a cool new move, or a left-hand lay-up.

Paul Mains

New York

On February 27, 2010, Chile was shaken by a massive 8.8-magnitude earthquake. Hundreds were killed, and entire villages and cities were ravaged. To help the thousands of families and individuals who found themselves without access to adequate shelter, my friend Rosie and I decided to raise money for the Jesuit-sponsored organization called Un Techo Para Chile (A Roof for Chile), which responds to the needs of homeless families in Chile. Rosie organized a silent auction, and I planned "Music Night," a night where the musically talented students of my school could perform for their families and the general public. A hectic process of publicizing, auditioning, and preparing ensued, but when the night was over, Rosie and I raised over \$1,000 for Un Techo Para Chile. In retrospect, it was absolutely worth the stress: Helping people setting up homes and shelter is well worth the difficulty of setting up a night of art and music.

Megan Mikhail

North Carolina

Though overt discrimination is now rare in math and science, a pervasive expectation about who will succeed in those disciplines remains, which convinces girls who once won science awards that they "aren't science people" and leads my college counselor to question whether someone like me could enjoy at a summer engineering program at MIT. Rather than conform to these expectations, I decided it was my duty to ensure that other underrepresented students were given the opportunity to succeed in math and science. So I established FISH (Fostering Interest in Science and Healthcare), a nonprofit organization that works with local universities to offer a scientific lecture series for female and minority high school students in my area. The need for FISH has only become more apparent as I have applied for grants from the NC Biotechnology Center and spoken with professors who have shared their own stories of past discrimination. Though I know I can't change the world overnight, it is my hope that one day no student will feel like she can't be a programming wiz because of her gender or he can't join a math team because of his race.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Samita Mohanasundaram

New Hampshire

I've always valued education and understood that there are individuals around the world who don't have the same quality of education that we have in the U.S. At the age of nine, I personally contacted newspapers, schools, family, and friends to encourage them to donate materials. My perseverance paid off: I collected more than 1,500 books and supplies the first year. My commitment to education in impoverished nations didn't stop after that first year; nine years later, I'm still involved in leading my community in school supply drives; as of today, I've collected more than 12,000 books and materials. During the summers, I travel to village schools in third-world nations and teach over 75 children not only science and technology, but also traditions, languages, and cultures from across the globe. I love helping others! Over the years, I've also founded the non-profit organization *Help Others Corporation* (currently has 550 members worldwide), introduced Indian music to hundreds of people, and worked to encourage more than 114,000 individuals around the globe to inspire children on Children's Day, an international event I created through *Help Others Corporation*. Making a difference and encouraging others to do the same is my passion.

Robert Moore Jr.

Texas

Robbie Moore and members of Kingwood Jazz & Company in Kingwood, TX, recently participated in a benefit performance to raise money for the Alden Duncan Foundation. This fund, created by Amy Duncan, mother of five-year-old Alden Duncan and director of KWJC, was established to help support her son's struggle with leukemia financially and communally. The students and parents of this local dance studio company dedicated an evening to celebrate the arts by featuring KWJC and another performance group, Kingwood Dance Theatre, at a small showing; in doing so, the dancers raised several thousand dollars for the Duncan Foundation and have since been able to help with Alden's treatments, check-ups, surgeries, and more. Several other local events are currently in the works for supporting the Duncan family and their son in his battle with cancer.

Uyen-Phuong Nguyen

Utah

I am notorious at Cottonwood for tutoring students in math, science, English, and, in particular, for tutoring the ACT. I raised a girl's ACT score by seven points. I heard from teachers that some kid was saying, "She just explains things in a way where you can actually understand it." I've also helped students design egg-drops, trebuchets, balsawood bridges, and mousetrap vehicles. I help the community through other means than academics. As president of Service Club, I collected about 300 dollars by trick-or-treating for UNICEF, with Service Club totaling about 500 dollars. I made dolls for Primary Children's Hospital to comfort children before surgery. I also helped arrange Sub4Santa to brighten the Christmas season for homeless and abused children at Cottonwood. Other projects I've done through Service Club include food drives, blanket drives, cleaning up blighted areas, writing letters to soldiers, building and selling scarecrows for the Justice Center, and so on. With all this, I've come to understand the importance of lending a hand to my community, as my community has become my basis for support, and my motivation to excel and be a better person.

Phoebe Nir

New York

After my grandmother's experience when she was treated for cancer, I couldn't stop thinking about the dismal environment in hospitals. Time didn't seem to pass beneath the fluorescent light. People were frightened and lonely and in pain. I decided I wanted to help. To me, the thing that was the most conspicuously depressing on the ward was the eerie absence of noise. Besides the metronomic beep of the heart monitor or the static of the television, all was silent and joyless. I started singing on the wards in December, so my repertoire initially consisted of holiday songs, but as the months past, I started incorporating Frank Sinatra, Judy Garland, whatever patients requested, or in several cases, where they were either unconscious or lacked the strength to speak for themselves, what their loved ones said were their favorite songs. The results were humbling. Despite the fact that I had come to serve their needs, people were desperate to show me that they appreciated that I was there. Those who couldn't speak clapped their hands; those who couldn't clap nodded in rhythm. People are capable of tremendous bravery, and it was an honor to provide comfort, even if only for a moment.

Jillian Peters

New Hampshire

For years, I have been volunteering with fellow Scottish dancers and bagpipers by performing for the residents at local nursing homes. When I first began participating in these performances, I simply saw them as exciting ways of providing entertainment for those whose lives might otherwise be monotonous. However, every year I become more receptive to the reactions of the seniors, and I have seen so many reflections and memories in the eyes of those who watch. Once, a woman wheeled up to me in her chair after an evening of music and dance and began to tell me about her encounter with the bagpipes during a vacation in Scotland with her husband. She proceeded to speak about her husband's death, and with every word I could see her heal. Men in the nursing homes have been reminded of their army days by the sound of the bagpipes. I see feet tapping, hear voices singing, and catch glimpses of smiles and tears. These residents are part of a generation that brought us into a beautiful world, and it is all that we can do to make certain that the last years of their lives are filled with the same beauty.

Sean Plumb

California

My volunteer work with the Special Olympics and Homeboy Industries has opened my eyes to the significance of community service and its role in the growth and development of all concerned individuals. I aim to live my life by my school's motto: "Men and women with and for others." After taking some time seriously contemplating the meaning of this saying, I decided to volunteer at the Special Olympics. Working with disabled people enlightened me and inspired me to grow into a thankful and grateful individual. After two years of Special Olympics, I wanted to step out of my comfort zone again and into a totally different culture. And what better way to do this than work side-by-side in a bakery with recovering gang members? Homeboy Industries gives jobs to "the homies." In an effort to plunge into a new worldview, I worked in the bakery and tutored in the GED program for the most of the month of January 2010. My work at Homeboy has changed the way I live my life—I try not to be judgmental and ignorant. Instead I aim to be open, caring, and loving. Community service is not something to be done because it is required. Rather, it is a necessary act for the betterment of society.

Jake Ross

South Carolina

My school, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, has a program with a pretty self-explanatory name: Connecting Arts Through Service (abbreviated C.A.T.S.), which is all about using our art areas to aid the community. As an Executive Council member of this program, I have not only helped out with local art festivals, cleaned rivers, and tutored little kids, but I've also learned to swallow my pride for the sake of my cause. Basically, if getting people on a residential high school campus to become interested in awareness, energy conservation, and recycling means getting up at a community meeting and rapping about the environment in front of the entire student body and faculty—well, you gotta do what you gotta do. So remember: "When you momma at the sink and she washin' all dem dishes / remember that dat water belong to da fishes."

Ida Saki

Texas

It's not every day that one is able to help people around the world through one organization. My work through MediSend has allowed me to reach people in various countries throughout the world. MediSend is a nonprofit, humanitarian organization that supports under-resourced hospitals in developing countries with a multi-dimensional approach to improving community health. Through MediSend, the volunteers package various types of unused medical supplies and ship them to developing countries, where they are used to perform surgical procedures in order to save lives. As a dancer, I am aware of the importance of health and the human body, and I yearn to help others understand this significance. Medisend has given me a sense of power as I am able to help people that I never believed were within my reach. Helping these people has inspired me to continue my volunteer work and broaden my assistance to more people throughout the world. It's not every day that one is able to save lives, but my ability to do so keeps me feeling blessed and thankful.

Joseph Schiavone

New Jersey

By teaching the next generation about the need to protect our planet, we invest in the future. This is why I have been thrilled to share my passion for caring for the environment with my peers. Two summers ago, I interned at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. I provided technical support for a new outreach group called "Building Green". The group is dedicated to teaching inner-city children about environmentally responsible technology and energy sources. I maintained a website for the group, which they used to collaborate while designing their curriculums. However, as the project progressed, I gradually became more and more involved with the development of the curriculums themselves. As a high school student, about the same age as the children who would benefit from this program, I was often approached by the teachers, who sought comments and advice. I was delighted to be able to help in this way, applying my creativity as well as my technical abilities to this noble endeavor. It is my profound hope that the children who participate in the program will become just as inspired as I am, and give their time, talent and treasure to protect what they believe in.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Michael Silberblatt

California

The city of Coronado, where I reside, is home to the U.S. Navy Seals, the Naval Amphibious Base of Coronado, and the Naval Air Station on North Island (NASNI). Many Coronado residents serve in the military or have relatives who serve. I felt it was not only right, but that it was my duty to express gratitude to these heroes who sacrifice time with their families and dedicate their lives to ensure the safety and freedom of our country. With the help of the Coronado community, I was able to collect and proofread over 1,400 Valentines in just 2 weeks—far more than I had originally planned to attain. With the help of a U.S. Navy officer, I was able to send around 1,200 Valentines to marines on board the U.S.S. *Pelileu*. Afterwards, I sent the rest to the U.S. Navy Seals. About a week later, I received two personalized e-mails from high-ranking officers on board the *Pelileu* thanking me for the kind gesture and informing me that the marines were surprised and heartened. Enclosed was a picture of at least 30 marines each holding one of the Valentines I had sent. A thoughtful red card goes a long way.

Dakota Snyder

Maine

As youth, we are not only the future, but the present as well. Our time is now. It is essential we find our voice, speak out and pursue lasting solutions to issues we care about. It wasn't until I became actively involved and socially aware that I came to understand how I can make a difference in my community. For example, in my town of York, Maine, many families struggle with the high cost of heating oil in winter. As part of the National Honor Society, I helped organize fundraisers to benefit the York Fuel Assistance Fund which provides financial help for families in need. As part of the AIDS Education Team, I worked to raise awareness and funding for AIDs research. I serve as a writing, math, history and science tutor for my peers. I was instrumental in launching the "Girls Point of View Book Club," sponsored by the Mainely Girls program, where I serve as a role model and mentor to 15 bright, enthusiastic fifth and sixth grade girls. We not only read great books, but encourage girls to speak freely, share ideas, develop confidence and address challenges we face in our contemporary world.

Preston So

Colorado

Since I first became involved with volunteering at my local library system, the Pikes Peak Library District, this exceptional institution and I have engaged in a cordial camaraderie that culminated in encounters I treasure to this day. I remember plundering the technology bookshelves at my library branch, poring through books hundreds of pages long about esoteric concepts. It was natural that I would decide without a moment's hesitation to contribute to its well-being, since I owe the library so much. As president of the Youth Advisory Council, I experienced the fulfillment of devotion to one's community. The assortment of initiatives and varied activities we spearheaded were specifically meant to improve society's perception of teenagers. Under my leadership, we began publishing a monthly newsletter both in print and online. We also coordinated, supervised, and suggested new outreach events—especially for the library district's Summer Reading Program—countless times throughout the year. Two years ago the library district reciprocated my deep appreciation for its services with a youth volunteer award, which was a great honor for me. I'm deeply humbled by the notion that I have somehow helped to illuminate—ever so slightly—these children's futures.

Lauren Stephens

Indiana

I stood nervous and exhausted as twelve sullen students walked in. Between convincing the school to allow four high school students to run a summer math program, the 50 hours of set-up, planning four curriculums, and, most importantly, making it fun, I was beginning to wonder what I had done. After all, most people would consider running a middle-school math camp a "geeky" role rather than a leadership one. Indeed, I am not in many of the typical leadership positions, such as student council president or team captain. However, despite not having won any elections, I am the person my cross-country coach goes to when he wants to know whether the workout was done, the person teammates seek out for tutoring, and the person teachers go to when they need someone to give a speech or represent the school. After a moment of reflection, I began to teach. Five days later, twelve students stood ready to start a race to write the most square numbers in two minutes. "Three...two...one...go," I said, and ten markers squeaked across the whiteboard. Even the kids whose parents had "volunteered" them were scribbling enthusiastically, eager to show off their new knowledge.

Austin Taylor

Texas

I never expected any community service project to rival that of my Eagle Scout project, a two-weekend endeavor that consisted of ravaging teenage boys with sledge hammers, tearing down over forty feet of drywall and constructing walls for two new administrative offices for the Plano Children's Theatre. Elected as chairman of the events committee for a school-wide fundraiser called McDonald's Week, I had no idea of the commitment and incredible rewards that would ensue. The exterior of the McDonald's was covered in streamers and caked from bottom to top in blue and gold paint, our school colors. I checked my watch as I put the finishing touches on the obstacle course. It was seven o'clock, and in twenty minutes over two hundred students and teachers would flood the parking lot and fill their stomachs to capacity, all for a generous cause. Over the course of the week, I ran every possible event in a McDonald's parking lot. By the end of the week, over \$18,000 was raised for a local homeless shelter. The sheer enjoyment of the week, combined with the knowledge of the invaluable service we provided to those in need, has been unmatched by anything I have ever done.

David Tong

Rhode Island

Liver cancer is one of the most widespread and devastating cancers in the world, the onset of which is usually caused by infection with Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). In fact, chronic hepatitis infection increases the lifelong risk for liver cancer by over thirtyfold. After my own grandmother contracted HBV and was diagnosed with hepatitis, I resolved to pursue scientific research in this area of study as my community service project. Over the course of high school, I worked in a biomedical lab where I investigated the mechanisms of HBV-related liver cancer development. Today, I hope that my hard work will have a positive effect on the lives of the thousands of people who are afflicted by this far-reaching illness, as well as those of the family members who must cope with such an ordeal. Indeed, I have experienced firsthand the suffering that such an illness can cause, and so I take great comfort in knowing that my small contribution will help to alleviate it, even if in the slightest degree. Of equal importance, my service project has taught me to consider science from not only a rational standpoint, but from a humanistic one as well.

Erica Vlahinos

Colorado

“sA I child a stggruled tihw lesDyxia.” Was that hard for you to read? I’m dyslexic and that is what I see every time I open a book. As a child I wondered why something that seemed so simple for other children was so very difficult for me. And growing up in a small community that provided no learning materials for students dealing with this learning disorder made it even more difficult. So in high school I set out to change that and create opportunities for students in my community struggling with dyslexia. The number one therapy tool for students with this disorder is the concurrent use of audio and printed books. Being able to connect the visual processing of the graphic symbols (letters) with verbal expressions of language can change the severity in which children are affected by the disability. Thus, I created the “Defying Dyslexia, Discovering Reading” Series for my Girl Scout Gold Award project. I organized a group of volunteers (who served as readers), recorded over 35 audio books, paired them with their texts and created a Dyslexic Learning Materials Library complete with step-by-step instructions on how to add to the library. Each book has a personal message from me dedicated to empowering young people. Today’s youth need to know that nothing is big enough to get in the way of your dreams and that if you see something wrong in the world, or in your community, it only takes one person to make a difference.

Anne Wang

Utah

I always wanted to debate in elementary school, but such programs did not exist in my school district. Enjoying and benefiting from high school debate, I decided to found an elementary school debate program to give others the opportunity I never had. When I first approached four schools with my proposal, I encountered repeated rejections. After repeated setbacks, I felt discouraged but still determined. In order to gain credibility, I requested to volunteer with an existing elementary school debate program in another school district. Assisting this program for a year, I gained experience, a solid reference, and permission to found my own program. I now work with over a hundred students, teach basic debate principles, judge rounds, edit affirmative and negative cases, and organize competitions. It is rewarding to watch my students progress from spouting out emotional reactions to arguing from a logical perspective. The topics I choose cover issues like the environment, sexism, poverty, and economic growth in developing countries. I hope to create interest and awareness in these important issues. I hope that I have sparked desires in the students so they might pursue a future path in which they can actually influence the issues being debated.

Michael Wang

Indiana

From an early age, I learned the importance of receiving an education. With an education, people in the developing world receive long-term aid and people in the developed world become aware of the conditions in the developing world and take action. This helps to bridge the developing and developed worlds into just one world. As a result, I want to become a social worker dedicated to promoting education. As a research mentor and math tutor, I have promoted education in Indiana. More significantly, I co-founded GlobalGiving (GG) at my school to promote education worldwide. For our first project, we raised \$5,000 to build a library at TianAi “Love School” that was affected by the Sichuan earthquake. The “Carmel High School Global Love Library,” which contains around 3,100 new books donated by GG, opened its doors to students this early March. For our second project, we are sponsoring two children who live in AIDS-stricken communities in Lilongwe, Malawi. It is my hope that I have inspired those children not to be content with just a primary or secondary education but to aim for a college education, which will provide them with a chance to dream big and achieve even bigger.

Kevin Weiss

Vermont

Seeking opportunities to make a difference, I was elated to discover TOPSoccer, a national program that fosters the development of children with disabilities. I was excited to partner and share my love for soccer, although I was initially wary to spend time with people facing challenges. However, I soon began to anticipate my partner’s excitement; Joe drops his crutch and grasps my hand, eager to join freeze tag or speed dribbling. His resolve has markedly improved. His passion for play and enthusiasm are infectious. I identify with his energy, courage and determination. It is exciting to witness Joe’s growth while he participates in a sport I take for granted, opening him to a world of wider possibilities. My exposure to differing abilities has increased my patience and tolerance. I am more cognizant that everyone has something to contribute. I have become increasingly committed to striving to make the world more accessible to all.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Morgan Whitaker

Arizona

As one little face popped up, it was followed by many others. The angelic faces were peering at me through the window, giggling and waving. This was my first event with my community service club; my friends and I started the club to encourage underclassmen to participate in community service projects. This first project was painting a shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Seeing the smiling faces of the toddlers is an image that always has had a special place in my heart, and it gives me continuing motivation to serve my community. In addition to the projects that I help to coordinate with my club, I have been a weekly volunteer with a local hospice facility for two years. The patients are always a pleasure to be around; whether I am feeding or playing Scrabble with a patient, I can feel from their expressions that I am truly making a difference. I also have been involved with Project C.U.R.E., which helps to distribute medical supplies worldwide. Through my work with individuals, the community, and the world, I have found that there is no best way to make a difference; any effort to help can light up someone's life.

Cody Wild

Pennsylvania

Physics textbooks tell you that energy can never be lost, only transferred from one form to another; from potential to kinetic, from the pain of loss to the satisfaction of giving back. Seven years ago, my aunt's tragic death from metastatic brain cancer inspired me to begin creating and donating gift baskets to other cancer patients. While receiving treatment at the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, she was given a gift basket from an unknown stranger. That simple gesture brightened her day despite her grim prognosis. "Janis Angels," as I decided to call the organization that inspiration produced, began with 40 baskets that my cousins and I delivered to a local hospital, and has expanded over seven years to service two hospitals. I hope that original Good Samaritan would be happy to know that their kinetic energy of concern and generosity was transferred to me. I recently learned that the family of a 2008 Janis Angels recipient began their own nonprofit organization in 2009, delivering gift bags filled with goodies to the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's patients for Valentine's Day. As good as it feels to personally give to others, it feels even better to inspire others to do the same!

Lauren Williams

Illinois

I have lived my whole life in Illinois, the Prairie State. I love its undeveloped open spaces, and when I learned that the native prairies are under attack from invasive species and human intrusion, I knew I had to help do something about it. For four years, I was the leader of a habitat restoration group comprised of homeschooled students, under the auspices of the Chicago Audubon Society. Armed with loppers and saws, we shared a twofold goal: to become educated about Illinois's native species of plants, as well as identify and remove those invasive species that are destroying our state's natural ecosystem. Although tiring, dirty work, it was also gratifying and inspiring. Within the first two years, we excavated over an acre of what had previously been a densely wooded area of buckthorn and nonnative plants. Working year-round, we also collected and spread the seeds of endangered plants into newly restored areas. Walking through the prairie reserve today, visitors will find areas full of life and growth that were just recently ecological wastelands. While much work remains, through the tireless efforts of volunteers such as myself, Illinois remains home to some of the most breathtaking native prairies in our country.

Kevin Wittenberg

Colorado

Intersection is a youth group for 5th and 6th graders that I lead every week. The church staff and I meet and rehearse on Thursdays. On Sunday mornings I am in the church interacting with the students. I get up on stage and am the center of their attention for a half hour. Then I connect with them more personally, chatting about the multifarious stresses that come with being the most difficult age of all.

I have a deep passion for this group because I was in their shoes not that long ago. I still vividly remember the horrors of adjusting to middle school and the beginning of puberty. If I can offer these youths the lessons that I have learned so that they can build upon my experience, then hopefully their transition into a more mature and less forgiving world will be easier. I have the opportunity to entertain 60 children, connect with them, and help them to grow into young adults while I get to reconnect with my inner child. It may be service, but it is also an adventure, and one I wouldn't give up for the world.

Angela Woods

Kentucky

Although not technically starving, many students in my county are malnourished. Approximately 55% of the students in my district are enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program, and for many of them, school lunch is the only daily meal. Upon realizing this, I recognized that these peers are left to fend for themselves during the summer vacation. Hence, my mom and I devised a summer food delivery program for students on free and reduced price lunch. We obtained a listing of these students and worked with the school cafeteria to package and deliver lunches to their houses several times a week. One time, a little girl was sitting on her porch step, looking dejected. Her house was not on our delivery list, but we stopped nonetheless. We approached her tenderly, so as not to scare her, and we asked how many lunches she would like. She held up five fingers and we gave her five lunches. She never said a word to us, but her radiant smile said it all. Thereafter, we always stopped at her house. This experience proved to me, yet again, my passion to aid the hungry.

Evan Wu

Oregon

Each week, I recruit several high school string musicians to perform classical music with me at a local soup kitchen's Sunday dinner. Although difficult to quantify, the positive effect of the music I organize becomes evident through the gratitude of our listeners, who shower us with smiles, applause, handshakes, and even thank you cards. Soup kitchen workers remark that our music actually produces a calmer, happier, and safer environment for the meals. Recently, one of our fans suggested a name for our "band": "Something Good in the Messed-up World." Another guest told us after we finished one Sunday that he had never been "so royally treated" in his life. Our music hasn't saved any lives, nor has it eradicated homelessness in Corvallis, but it has brought precious happiness and dignity to many people less fortunate than me. I've won many piano and cello competitions, but of all my musical achievements, I am most proud of my soup kitchen performances.

Sharif Youssef

West Virginia

The twelve-year-old boy missing two front teeth looked up at me, the papers in his hands trembling as he stumbled through the beginnings of a speech he had just written. I stopped him. "That was good, but how about if we move that phrase *here* and say this word with just a *little* more emphasis, and John..." "Yes, sir?" came his tenuous reply. "Relax, you're doing a great job. Just have fun with it—and don't call me sir." A smile was the only reply I got. Every year, my school's speech team hosts a speech and debate workshop and competition for local middle schools, and every year I enjoy helping younger students expand their horizons. The satisfaction I experience during this time is exceeded only by the knowledge that I am making at least a small difference in these kids' lives and our community. The students' transformations are spectacular. Their confidence increases with each word; their hesitant grins break into full-fledged smiles as they grasp new concepts. I am honored to give back at least a small portion of the skills and happiness that the speech community has given me.

Scott Yu

Maryland

I've studied Spanish for years. I've learned all about verbal conjugation, subjunctive mood, composite tenses, and demonstratives. From my seat in the classroom, I've studied Latin American culture, holidays, and even literature. But undoubtedly the most valuable lessons I've received have been from the ESOL students I tutor during the school year. In my tutoring, I have taught one girl the rudiments of algebra, so she can pass the standardized exit exam needed for graduation; I have explained the history of Thanksgiving to a young man who had felt alienated by our foreign tradition; and I have helped a new English-speaker express his ideas, so that he may make new friends and converse comfortably with them. Through our time together, the ESOL students have increased their mastery of the English language; and I, of Spanish. Just as I have shown them the way to solve a quadratic equation, so my students have shown me the importance of equality in the school system. Today, I vehemently believe that every student, English-speaking or not, deserves a chance to be successful. Through my assistance to the ESOL department, I hope that I've helped put that chance within reach for many of these kids.

Wendy Zeng

Colorado

I enjoy sharing my love for math and music with my community. Through math club and the math tutoring program I founded at my school, I have been able to promote student involvement, opportunities, and interest in math. I enjoy seeing lives made brighter with the nursing home concerts I organized. My most rewarding experience was as a math tutor for refugees at the African Community Center. The refugees come from the United Nations to start a new life here in the United States. My experience was eye-opening, seeing the refugees struggling to adjust to a new culture and settle in a new place while dealing with a traumatic past. Their circumstances in the past had made education difficult, but they were keen to learn. One student I taught lacked understanding in basic math foundations, but he worked very hard to catch up, despite a language barrier and the confusion of adjusting to a new school and environment. He quickly learned new concepts and memorized the multiplication table and list of squares I had him recite. His persistence to learn moved me as I spent extra effort to help him learn.

Henry Zhu

Maryland

Having grown up in America, I feel that most people here don't realize just how complex of a language English is, with its oftentimes inexplicable spelling, idioms, pronunciations and grammar. As the first person in my family who can call English his first language, I've had to overcome language barriers between myself and my older relatives. My grandparents have always been interested in learning English from me, even as they taught me Chinese. When I started teaching at their senior center in Beijing during my summer visits, I discovered a surprisingly large, eager group of seniors who wanted to learn English to communicate to their families overseas. Even at their ages, these seniors were enthralled by the new words I taught them, feeling like young scholars once again. Their heartfelt thanks have been the ultimate compliment and gave me an unforgettable sense of accomplishment that I could genuinely help these elderly people whose wisdom far surpassed my own. During the school years, I tutor younger children throughout my community, and as I look at each of them, I see the same enthusiasm for learning that those senior citizens had, which is that special catalyst to help them reach their dreams.

2010 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES

Each U.S. Presidential Scholar presents the program's Teacher Recognition Award to the one teacher, counselor, or school administrator who has been his or her greatest influence and inspiration. Every day, in classrooms across the country, these educators prove the power of excellent teaching to help guide young lives toward the realization of their true potential and the fulfillment of their highest aims.

Nancy Aborn (MA)

*Statistics
Barnstable High School*

Cathy E. Acord (WV)

*Biology & Honors Anatomy
Liberty High School*

Jordan Adair (NC)

*English
Durham Academy Upper School*

Phillip M. Baker (AR)

*Chemistry
Huntsville High School*

Dave Bardos (IN)

*Social Studies
Carmel High School*

Linda C. Benning (CA)

*English & Theatre
Coronado High School*

Carl Bewig (MA)

*Academic Advising &
College Counseling
Phillips Academy*

Lawrence A. Bickford (NH)

*Mathematics
Hopkinton High School*

Mary Jo Bondy (SD)

*Mathematics
Parker High School*

Katherine Booth (KY)

*AP World History
Scott County Senior High School*

Janet Brock (RI)

*Latin
Barrington High School*

Michele Buche (KS)

*Gifted Education
Blue Valley North High School*

Pat Cannon (IL)

*Counselor
Highland Park High School*

Mandee Carmical (AR)

*AP Biology
Cabot High School*

George E. Case IV (GA)

*Vocal Studies
Pebblebrook High School*

Joe G. Celej (TX)

*Modern Dance
Houston Metropolitan
Dance Company*

Martin H. Chambers (AL)

*Philosophic Studies
Jefferson County International
Baccalaureate School*

Nicole Conrad (AL)

*English
Briarwood Christian High School*

Irmarie Coriano (PR)

Mathematics
St. John's School

Charles Creighton (OR)

Orchestra
Crescent Valley High School

Jeffrey Crosby (NH)

Biology
St. Paul's School

Stacy L. Crouse (TX)

All Subjects
Crouse Home School

Kenneth J. Culek (OH)

Biology
Shaker Heights High School

Marilyn Curtis (OR)

*Comparative Values
and Belief Systems*
Eugene International High School

Amy Dahlin (MN)

English
Roseville Area High School

Michael Dalton (CT)

Social Studies
Guilford High School

Craig Darif (KY)

Chemistry
*duPont Manual Magnet
High School*

Matthew Davis (NE)

Oral Communication
Lincoln East High School

John Dell (VA)

Physics
*Thomas Jefferson High School
for Science & Technology*

Laurel Depalatis (AK)

Chemistry
South Anchorage High School

**Linda D.
DeRegnaucourt (FL)**

Calculus
Palm Bay High School

Gregory Devine (NJ)

Physics
Delbarton School

Jason DeWitte (NM)

Biology
La Cueva High School

Fan Disher (LA)

Mathematics
Mandeville High School

Lori Dumaine (NH)

History
Bedford High School

Edwin J. Duncan (UT)

AP Physics
Cottonwood High School

Gretchen Edelen (MT)

English
Helena High School

Dwayne Edwards (LA)

Western Civilization
Lafayette High School

**Christopher
Elmore (MO)**

Social Science
Rockhurst High School

Richard Espenant (TN)

French
University School of Nashville

Jaime Estrada (DC)

Classics & Modern Languages
Maret School

Robert Fedell (FL)

English
Dr. Phillips High School

Lynda Fischer (NJ)

English
Old Bridge High School

Jeff Flygare (CO)

English
Air Academy High School

John Foster (NY)

English
Doane Stuart School

Elizabeth Franklin (MS)

Spanish
Jackson Preparatory School

**Stephen A.
Freeman (ME)**

History
York High School

Max Gabrielson (CT)

Classical Languages
Wilton High School

John Garnevicus (WA)

Science
Lakeside School

Casey Gendason (TX)

English & College Counseling
St. Mark's School of Texas

Scott Gould (SC)

Creative Non-Fiction
*South Carolina Governor's
School for Arts & Humanities*

**Kenneth A.
Greathouse (MO)**

AP, Honors & General Chemistry
Parkway Central High School

William Gulde (IN)

European History
North Central High School

**Thomas Haindfield
(NE)**

Social Studies
Creighton Preparatory School

Myra Halpin (NC)

Chemistry
*The North Carolina School
of Science & Mathematics*

Whit Hames (NC)

AP Biology
Raleigh Charter High School

Donna Hieb (WY)

English
Campbell County High School

Mary Highland (ME)

Spanish
Yarmouth High School

**Katherine
Hoffman (PA)**

English
State College Area High School

Mary Lynn Huie (GA)

Language Arts
Parkview High School

Elizabeth Irish (TX)

*U.S. History &
Academic Decathlon*
James E. Taylor High School

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES

Gaylen Isaacs (HI)

English
Sacred Hearts Academy
High School

Shyamala Jithendranathan (MN)

Chemistry
Central High School

Clint Johns (CA)

Math
Irvington High School

Mary Ellen Johnson (UT)

Language Arts
West High School

Mark Julien (MI)

English
Henry Ford II High School

Neil Kane (DE)

Theology
Salesianum School

Michael Karas (MI)

History & Government
of the United States
De La Salle Collegiate High School

Steve Kemper (AK)

Science
Robert Service High School

Scot Key (NM)

Humanities

Allerton Kilborne (DC)

United States History
Maret School

Min Kim (NH)

English

Jodene Kissler (CO)

Math
Douglas County High School

Patrick Kolb (AZ)

Biology
Brophy College Preparatory

William Kysor (TX)

Ceramics
St. Mark's School of Texas

Michael Lewis (IA)

Mathematics
Hudson High School

Ken Lindemann (SD)

Mathematics
O'Gorman High School

Melissa Lozoff (NC)

Acting
The Arts Center of Carrboro

Nicholas Lucero (OK)

Mathematics
Casady School

Patricia Lund (ND)

Mathematics
Divide County High School

Bill Lynch (OR)

English
Lincoln High School

Darin Maier (MS)

Government
St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Marianna Malm (ND)

English
North High School

Jeremy Manasia (NY)

Jazz Piano
Manhattan School of Music

Jan Mantle (WA)

English & Spanish
Colton High School

Vicky Mayall (UT)

AP Chemistry
East High School

Serena McCalla (NY)

Science Research
Jericho Senior High School

Charles McArver Jr. (SC)

History
Porter-Gaud School

Peter Mehlbach (CO)

European History
Lakewood Senior High School

Joelle Miller (MD)

Biology/Science Olympiad
River Hill High School

Joe Morris (ID)

Calculus
Century High School

Witty Muehlbauer (NV)

English
Clark High School

Jamie Y. Nekoba (HI)

Science
Waiakea High School

Nora Nido (PR)

Math
Baldwin School of Puerto Rico

Dawn Norton (MN)

AP/IB Biology
Minnetonka High School

Patrick Norton (GA)

AP Literature and Composition
Shiloh High School

Carol L. Obermann (WV)

Mathematics
Wheeling Park High School

Mark Olbin (AZ)

5th Grade
Lineweaver Elementary School

Thom O'Rourke (TN)

Debate
University School of Nashville

Jason Patera (IL)

Music Department Chair
Chicago Academy for the Arts

John Pritchett (TX)

Band
Bellville High School

Brian Rawlin (GA)

Language Arts
Northview High School

Jerry Reisig (MT)

Physics
Bozeman High School

Keven Renken (FL)

Theatre Department Chair
Gibbs Senior High School

Ann Robinson (AE)

Mathematics
Vilseck High School

Evelyn Rodriguez (CO)

English
Niwot High School

Sheila R. Rulison (TX)

English
MacArthur High School

David Salter (SC)

Biology
Williston Elko High School

Razmick Sarkissian (WY)

Orchestra
Sheridan High School

Timothy Scheffler (WI)

Debate and Forensics Coach
James Madison Memorial High School

Auxiliadora Schiavone (NJ)

All Classes
Home School

David Schmittgens (CA)

English
Robert L. Stevenson School

Rebecca Shafer (IL)

Mathematics
Prairie Central High School

Judith Shepherd (PA)

European Literature
Conestoga High School

Diana C. Siliezar-Shields (RI)

Biology
Barrington High School

Robert Slayton (VT)

Latin
Mount Mansfield Union High School

Judith A. Smith (MD)

AP English Literature and Composition
Montgomery Blair High School

Steven Sorkin (MD)

Honors Geometry
Landon School

Jeffrey S. Stahlman (OH)

College Counselor
New Albany High School

Kenneth Stedman (NV)

Mathematics
Bob Miller Middle School

David Stover (DE)

Physics
Charter School of Wilmington

Valerie Taylor (TX)

English
Westlake High School

Louise L. Thompson (WI)

AP Chemistry
Brookfield Central High School

Marilyn L. Toalson (MO)

Gifted Education
Columbia-Rock Bridge Senior High School

Tamás Ungár (TX)

Music – Piano Performance
Texas Christian University

David Veselka (TX)

Photography
Kinkaid School

Tom Vitrano (ID)

Theology
Bishop Kelly High School

Gretel von Barga (WA)

Biology
Skyline High School

Janice Vote (IN)

French
Park Tudor School

Greg Warren (MA)

Physical Science
Sharon Middle School

Karen Weires (IA)

Mathematics
Hempstead High School

Adam Weiss (VT)

Biology
Essex High School

Lily Weiss (TX)

Dance (Modern, Composition, Repertory)
Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts

Benjamin Williams (MD)

English
Georgetown Preparatory School

Catherine Wojtkun (NH)

Gifted and Talented Education
Nashua Senior High School North

Walter Wolfe (CA)

Acting Workshop
Loyola High School

Rebecca Woods (KY)

Mathematics
Carroll County High School

Amy Wopat (DC)

Spanish
Woodrow Wilson Senior High School

Robert Wright (FL)

History
John Paul II Catholic High School

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES REFLECT ON TEACHING

Nancy Aborn

Massachusetts

My mantra is “Put your time where your heart is.” A former student of mine reminded me of why my heart is in teaching when he wrote to me, thanking me for the impact I had on his life.

Cathy Acord

West Virginia

Teaching science is a rewarding career. It is my belief that students must be provided challenges that open their minds to the amazing world around them. Whether students are involved in research or experimentation, they should actively participate in class to enjoy the learning experience.

Jordan Adair

North Carolina

Each day I strive to challenge my students, to show them my curiosity for the world around me, and to help them to become better thinkers and writers. Each day I arrive in the classroom with eagerness and honesty, hoping some of it will rub off on my students.

Phillip Baker

Arkansas

I am a second-career teacher, retired from corporate engineering and manufacturing. The rewards of my first career were great, but they pale in comparison to a feeling I get when I receive a note from a graduating senior telling me I have had a positive influence on their life.

Dave Bardos

Indiana

For 36 years, I have loved the vocation I chose and I can think of no other that rivals its experiences. To celebrate the successes and work to address the less successful is the essence of teaching. To instill a sense of wonder in youth is what education is all about.

Linda Benning

California

The most precious gifts of all, the minds and hearts of young people, are entrusted to teachers. Each deserves respect and acknowledgement. I am truly blessed for every day that I have the privilege, the honor, and the responsibility of choosing to make a positive difference in the lives of my students.

Carl Bewig

Massachusetts

At its fundamental core teaching is the art of yoking knowledge and goodness. This noble goal has guided my 46 years as an educator: “Goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous; and both united form the noblest character and lay the surest foundation for usefulness to mankind.”

Lawrence Bickford

New Hampshire

“Teach high school? What a waste of your mathematics education.” My professor was aghast when we talked of my post-graduation plans. How wrong he was. My education was not wasted; it has served me well. I can’t imagine a more rewarding way to spend one’s time than working with young people.

Katherine Booth

Kentucky

I teach because learning compassion for the world and the amazing variety of people within it is vital to all students. My drive to make this idea connect to their lives in a relevant way is the reason I remain passionate about my job year in and year out.

Janet Brock

Rhode Island

Archimedes said, "Give me a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth." Give students a place to learn, and they will move the earth. Through reading ancient texts my students have conversations with the great minds of the past and one day can move the earth.

Michele Buche

Kansas

Our duty is to help students discover opportunity; our reward is when they act on it. Teachers must show students the magic of personal initiative and the science of resourcefulness—how to recognize and even create them if need be. These combine with vision, hard work, intelligence, and faith to birth innovation and advancement.

Pat Cannon

Illinois

I love being a counselor and debate coach. Both roles allow me to share my students' enthusiasm, desire to learn, and hope for the future. As a coach, I teach by creating opportunities for students to guide and learn from each other, passing on knowledge and skills they can use for the rest of their lives. I have the best job in the world.

Mandee Carmical

Arizona

The motivation to teach comes from the intrinsic rewards of my students becoming contributing citizens. Helping students to overcome personal difficulty or to strive for the betterment of their own understanding drives me to become the best teacher, to find and create strategies for all of my students to have maximum learning.

George Case IV

Georgia

I teach music for the service of great art and for the personal desire to create. Therein, the study of our music, our literature, our voices, and our performance has become for each of us an expression of who we are as individuals, as musicians, and as a corporate ensemble.

Nicole Conrad

Alabama

The most exciting moment as an English teacher is seeing a student connect to a piece of literature and truly love it. It is my hope that they find one poem, story, or novel in my class that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Irmarie Coriano

Puerto Rico

I simply love teaching! With a great sense of responsibility, I like to create for the students a challenging, changing, surprising and rewarding environment of infinite possibilities. It is very fulfilling to see how they acquire knowledge and are inspired to become better human beings and reach their dreams.

Charles Creighton

Oregon

I love to see classical music become a major part of a young person's life. I am pleased when they understand the discipline of practice and dedication. I love to see it permeate other areas of their lives and have a positive influence on their character and future.

Stacy Crouse

Texas

It is an honor to journey alongside my remarkable students. It is a privilege to witness their enthusiasm and determination of spirit. It has been said that to teach is to change a life forever. It should also be said that to teach is to be forever changed.

Kenneth Culek

Ohio

I have fun teaching! The classroom provides me with the stage to share my fascination with science and the excitement of learning. Teaching allows me to become engaged with the energy and enthusiasm of youth in a personal and fulfilling manner. I grow with my students as we gain new insights.

Marilyn Curtis

Oregon

Each classroom represents a world of unlimited possibilities and each student brings a multitude of perspectives and abilities. Students today face a complex, global world. As a teacher of comparative world religion, I encourage students to explore different cultures and realize, as H. G. Wells notes, "Our true nationality is humankind."

Michael Dalton

Connecticut

To foster a love of learning in my students and to help them realize their dreams. To make a difference.

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES REFLECT ON TEACHING

Amy Dahlin

Minnesota

The satisfaction of helping students prepare for the lives they want to live is the most fulfilling part of my job. Teaching is about helping students create possibilities for themselves. I hold high standards and pose difficult tasks to students because I want them to be ready for anything.

Craig Darif

Kentucky

Teaching my students to be independent learners is challenging and exciting. Learning how to think critically excites them. Discovery involves risk, and to take risks often requires the support of a guide. I am thankful that my life journey led me to a profession where I can help guide students on theirs.

Matthew Davis

Nebraska

My love of teaching is found in the riddle each student represents. Solving those riddles each day keeps me energized. My students inevitably stump me, amaze me, make me laugh, and motivate me. Watching their successes, by whatever definition of success they choose, rewards me.

John Dell

Virginia

It's wonderful to see my students awaken in this world of ideas, gain strength and confidence, and take progressively more initiative in creating and exploring this world. The bright smiles and intense excitement that students radiate as they wrap their heads around new ideas is the energy that sustains us all.

Laurel DePalatis

Alaska

As my dad would say, learning is essential to our survival, which means it's fundamentally interesting and purposeful. What I love about teaching is the challenge of tapping into my students' natural desires to learn by showing off how fascinating chemistry can be. It's serious fun!

Linda DeRegnaucourt

Florida

I truly love my students and what I teach. It is my goal that when they leave my class they know a lot more mathematics but more importantly that they knew I loved them and their lives are enriched because of both. I am blessed to teach the students I teach in so many ways.

Gregory Devine

New Jersey

I am fortunate to teach physics and music at Delbarton School in Morristown, NJ. The students here are eager to learn, which is tremendous motivation for me as a teacher. I get to share in their discovery of all that is great about physics and music. What fun!

Jason DeWitte

New Mexico

I teach for the purpose of being a positive role model and hopefully an inspiration to young people. I believe education is the single most important thing a young person must be a part of in order to open up options for themselves. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be a part of providing the highest levels of learning to my students. If the bar is high, the students will rise and achieve excellence.

Fan Disher

Louisiana

I enjoy sharing my mathematical expertise and my philosophy on life with my students. We respect each other's talents especially when they work problems in a unique fashion. My favorite times are reaching the point where they enjoy working exquisite math problems, doing math labs, and participating in math contests!

Lori Dumaine

New Hampshire

I think of teaching as providing experiences that students can learn from. I want my students to have a sense of purpose in their learning. Students, like Harrison Potter, make my mission worth it. If nothing else, I aim to convince them that achieving higher expectations stems from recognizing you are worthy of those higher expectations.

Edwin Duncan

Utah

After 40 years I still cannot hide my enthusiasm for teaching! When a former student stretches for a new goal I rejoice. When a student in my class has an "Aha" and says "I get it! That's so cool," I can't help but cheer also.

Gretchen Edelen

Montana

For over thirty years, I have been involved in a discussion of ideas with inquisitive young minds. As Paulo Freire said, "Knowledge emerges only ... through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other." It's been an honor to share their journey.

Dwayne Edwards

Louisiana

As a teacher of history I am constantly tasked to impress upon my students the relevance of the past to the world in which they live. If education is analogous to a life-long journey, it has truly been my privilege to have known outstanding budding scholars like Daniel Comeaux along the way!

Christopher Elmore

Kansas

Each cycle of new faces seeking new challenges and facing new obstacles reminds me how difficult it is to achieve the simple goal of being a good person. An often overlooked reward of teaching is that working towards that goal is an essential component of doing the job well.

Richard Espenant

Tennessee

An inspirational teacher must be in tune with students' interests, offering flexibility when it comes to topics to explore. Through my years of teaching French, I am continuously impressed by the quality of my students' work and their level of artistry in creating their projects. It is they who inspire me.

Jaime Estrada

Washington, DC

I believe in fostering balance between emotional and intellectual growth in my students. It allows them to become passionate thinkers. I want my students to view their environment as an inexhaustible universe from which to learn, create, communicate and experience. My goal as a teacher is to facilitate this process.

Robert Fedell

Florida

“The labor we delight in physics pain” is a line from Macbeth that best expresses my attitude toward teaching: though both a daunting and enervating calling, the ineffable benefits certainly provide “abundant recompense” in terms of personal satisfaction and personal growth. Realizing what a privilege it is to teach such exemplary students as Brooke Griffin, I cherish the opportunity every day to share my love of literature with my classes, and constantly try to expand my own education in order to deliver the best service to them. Teaching to me is an act of prayer.

Lynda Fischer

New Jersey

To a teacher, each year is a new adventure because education is a collaborative effort. Sharing ideas fosters creativity, understanding, and higher-level thinking. I am proud to be a teacher and to touch the lives of students such as Dedeepya Konuthula. Congratulations, Dedeepya! I look forward to seeing your future success.

Jeff Flygare

Colorado

Teaching is the hardest and best job. There is no “magic bullet” that makes every learner a scholar, but what does work is a connection between teacher and student built on respect for the potential every human contains. That respect has made the difference for me in lighting students’ minds.

John Foster

New York

While intellectual ambition and curiosity might draw my students and me to the seminar table, congeniality and good humor keep us there. My student Paul Mains (as kind as he is brilliant) strikes this balance effortlessly; students like him turn classrooms into communities.

Elizabeth Franklin

Mississippi

When a student relays to me a story about how he has used his Spanish to help others or to improve our world, I know all the long days and nights that teaching requires are well worth it. When a student communicates in a second language well enough to offer help and hope to others in need, whether in another country through mission or volunteer work or in his own community, I am overjoyed.

Stephen Freeman

Maine

I am a fortunate person to love my life’s work. Every day is both challenging and rewarding when you are living your life’s dream of working with adolescents. Teaching students about the world is a humbling and gratifying experience when they return years later to share how your influence helped shape them.

Max Gabrielson

Connecticut

Teachers of remarkable dedication and learning kindled in me a deep love of classical languages. What a great privilege and joy it is to share this interest with my students, and to see them making discoveries in language and literature that will be their own lifetime possession.

John Garnevicus

Washington

There are many positive things that can come out of good teaching, but the only sustainable reason to teach is that you love to do it. There are many things that I enjoy about teaching, none more than knowing that I’ll get a little bit better at it each year.

Casey Gendason

Texas

To see the wheels spinning in the minds of young people energizes me. I enjoy tossing an idea to the group and observing the discussion unfold. I am impressed with how engaging my students are in the classroom, and their questions and comments make me a better teacher and person.

Scott Gould

South Carolina

Jamaal’s granny called me. She was in tears because he’d been accepted to Berea College, full tuition paid. He would be the first in the family to attend college. She told me that I had changed his life. I said, No, ma’am, actually he changed mine. And that’s why teachers teach.

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES REFLECT ON TEACHING

Kenneth Greathouse

Missouri

In a well known quote, Physicist Richard Feynman challenges the belief that the poet sees greater beauty in the stars. The natural world has power and elegance that eludes the uninitiated. Opening the eyes of students to the endless vistas that a journey into the heart of nature provides is a joyful endeavor.

Thomas Haindfield

Nebraska

Everyone loves stories. The stories of American history generate a collective memory essential for a people to survive and thrive. This memory permits students to transcend time and place and create identities that are unique yet universal. Molding students who will contribute to that memory is one of the greatest joys of teaching.

Myra Halpin

North Carolina

It is most gratifying for me to see the light in students's eyes when they discover something for themselves, the 'aha' moments. I view myself as a learning facilitator. The students and I are on an exciting learning adventure together, I share what I know and together we all learn even more.

Mary Highland

Maine

Being a teacher allows me to focus on the best qualities of every student I encounter and encourage the development and maturation of those qualities. Every day, I proudly witness students achieving, persevering, creating, tolerating, and transcending. I learn—and laugh—alongside them.

Katherine Hoffman

Pennsylvania

Teaching allows me the privilege of discussing popular culture, literature, and meaningful ideas daily; it allows me the opportunity to be a lifelong learner, constantly exposed to new perspectives and ideas about the world; it allows me to pass on my passions and influence the future.

Mary Lynn Huie

Georgia

Reading literature involves engaging in the most difficult questions about the human condition. I love working the students learning to read literature for its questions—not its answers. Literature shows us how to read life more closely as we all struggle to find meaning and purpose in everyday action.

Elizabeth Irish

Texas

I have a deep love and appreciation for American history. As a teacher, it is my goal to bring our nation's past alive through intelligent discourse and debate, so that my students may not only develop a similar appreciation for our history, but also perpetuate the ideals of the Republic.

Gaylen Isaacs

Hawaii

A simple thank you from a student in an unexpected moment brings great joy. The best part of teaching, however, is convincing students of their unrealized potential. Their impact on the world around them is immeasurable and infinite. This is the promise that makes teaching so worthwhile.

Shyamala Jithendranathan

Minnesota

Teaching is all I know. I believe that every lesson is a "Lesson" in itself and needs to be allowed to unfold and evolve based on my students' responses. These responses inspire the direction I choose to take within my classroom. This is what motivates me and keeps everything fresh.

Mary Ellen Armstrong-Johnson

Utah

I love teaching because each day is a new beginning. I tried other careers, but missed the students and all the creativity and autonomy afforded educators. What other profession is so engaging and challenging? I am NEVER bored, love my students, and always seek new knowledge and technology.

Mark Julien

Michigan

What I most enjoy about teaching is providing the spark that ignites learning. When illuminated, students discover knowledge for themselves and learn how to think—not merely what to think. My ultimate goal is that my students will continue this process of self-discovery beyond the classroom.

Neil Kane

Delaware

Paraphrasing Aquinas: "Teaching imbues others with what is received through prayer and reflection." For 35 years, I have been blessed by teaching, especially at Salesianum where we educate the whole person in the tradition of St. Francis de Sales, whose motto is "Live Jesus." Teaching is my life.

Michael Karas

Michigan

While it may seem corny, my inspiration for teaching comes from a classic movie: Boys Town. I have always believed that every student has the potential to do great things, whether that student is the best and brightest, like Ben, or that student is struggling to find an identity.

Steve Kemper

Alaska

It gives me great joy to pass on the love of learning to motivated students. They are the problem-solvers of our future and so I feel I am a participant in this important endeavor.

Allerton Kilborne

Washington, DC

Love of teaching comes from teachers opening up their hearts to students, feeling that outpouring being reciprocated, and then going forward together.

Jodene Kissler

Colorado

For over three decades of teaching, I've been blessed to have been a part of the lives of students like Erica Vlahinos. The young people we teach give us energy, enthusiasm to continue our own learning, and hope for a strong future. I am inspired by their vision and passion.

Patrick Kolb

Arizona

What motivates me as a teachers is the ability to inspire students of all ages to be continous content learners, love science, and have a good idea of who they are and what they want to do. I enjoy teaching because I help students reach their given potential.

William Kysor

Texas

When students are involved in the creative process, their minds and spirit are moving into a higher level of self-expression. They are beginning their journey as artists. My reward as their mentor is the joy of seeing that transformation, and somehow knowing that their journey will be for a lifetime.

Michael Lewis

Iowa

Spending my day with the energy and enthusiasm of teenagers is a great way to enliven myself. I hope to get my students to enjoy learning, and look at the ideas that they've learned from childhood with a new perspective. "If you know the WHY, you'll know the HOW."

Ken Lindemann

South Dakota

My greatest reward is seeing the excitement and focus my students display regarding the AP Calculus exam. I love the subject matter, and I love to see my students gain an appreciation for mathematics as well as the lessons math teaches about hard work and perseverance.

Nicholas Lucero

Oklahoma

Education is the Great Liberator. I wish for all my students to discover disciplines of mind that they love and challenge them. I believe that an earnest devotion to powerful ideas brings uncommon opportunities.

Patricia Lund

North Dakota

Where else will you find such honesty, humor and spirit than in our classrooms? What a privilege it is to make a difference in the lives of students who have an eagerness to learn. Teaching keeps me challenged and inspired to set expectations to best serve our students.

Darin Maier

Mississippi

For me, teaching is about helping students actualize their potential, whatever that may be. My greatest joys come from working with students who may not be the strongest but for whom the information that I present just clicks with them and they meet with success beyond their initial expectations.

Marianna Malm

North Dakota

Author Burton Blatt maintains that "every person must have a place, must be here for a special reason, or no one has a place and no one has a special reason for being. Either everybody counts or nobody counts." To me, everybody counts, especially my students who add joy to my life!

Jeremy Manasia

New York

Teaching jazz is like holding a mirror in front of the students face and having them express what they see through sound, exemplifying the importance of the individual in the community. One cannot be without the other. When a student is inspired to explore their depths, the potential is boundless.

Jan Mantle

Washington

During elementary school I knew I wanted to be a teacher. From then on, my path was set. I entered the best profession in the world, and this year, after 36 years in the classroom, I am retiring. I have so many wonderful memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Vicky Mayall

Utah

Teaching continually inspires me to better myself. The challenge is to make chemistry approachable and understandable to every student so they leave my class with a love of how things work. The reward is seeing students have great success and knowing I have helped them reach their goals.

Charles McArver Jr.

South Carolina

The primary motivation in my teaching is the wonderful relationships built with my students. I feel blessed that they share part of their lives with me and that I can share the joy of learning with them. For me, moments spent with my students are "moments of grace."

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES REFLECT ON TEACHING

Serena McCalla

New York

Teaching is a means to change the world. I compel my students to be innovative and willing to change the status quo. I expect them to create the innovations that will solve the complex challenges our world faces. To know I have been instrumental in this process is tremendously rewarding.

Peter Mehlbach

Colorado

For the past 34 years, I have gotten paid to do a hobby. For three decades, I have had the honor of teaching America's best and brightest. I never leave disappointed. My classroom is about energy, critical thinking, and love of history. My students make me better every day.

Joelle Miller

Maryland

I strive to encourage my students to reach their full potential. I am rewarded on a daily basis seeing my kids excel and succeed. I never expected to be recognized for something that rewards itself. Being nominated by Scholar Richard Li and impacting such a talented student have further encouraged my passion for teaching.

Witty Muehlbauer

Nevada

There is no "correct" interpretation to a literary work. Therefore, I'm ecstatic when students share an opinion, reflection, or analysis I've never thought of before. Students bring their own distinctive perspectives and experiences, making each day and lesson unique. The classroom is where learning occurs for teachers and students alike.

Jamie Nekoba

Hawaii

It warms my heart to see young people continue to strive for excellence with the optimism of making this world a better place. Our contributions as teachers serves as a model for all students to aspire to use their talents for the good of the community that nurtured them.

Nora Nido

Puerto Rico

As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's little Prince, I live in my own extraordinary world where I elucidate knowledge of old Geometry theorems with today's twists and turns. I seek to strengthen those who need it by addressing individual skills and believing in the power that mathematics can bring. I sprinkle my teaching with *alma, vida y corazón*, which aren't Latin spices, but a lifestyle inherited from my mentor Marina Ruiz.

Dawn Norton

Minnesota

Honor and joy have marked my career as a biology teacher. My students remind me daily of good things the next generation has to offer: resilience, dedication, enthusiasm, humor, and hope. It has been my delight to share in the beauty that is learning with thousands of the very best!

Patrick Norton

Georgia

What keeps me going year after year is helping my students move beyond their instinctive distrust in order to develop a mature skepticism. I want them to believe that good questions are important, but good answers are the goal. To doubt is to be, but to resolve is to become.

Carol Obermann

West Virginia

Students like Sharif Youssef motivate me to keep teaching although I could have retired. I enjoy teaching students who ask insightful questions and who appreciate the beauty of mathematics as Sharif does. I also find it rewarding to teach students who struggle with mathematics but work hard to do their best.

Mark Olbin

Arizona

Would I want to be a student in my classroom? This question is asked by me with every teaching experience offered to my students. They must be motivated to learn or they won't. I enjoy this challenge to keep students' desire to learn and their curiosity piqued!

Thom O'Rourke

Tennessee

Spending time teaching in middle school, high school, and college, I have a unique perspective on how a student's journey evolves. At any grade level, my students learn we are always learning and learn how to manage uncertainty. My students are all works in progress. Just like their teacher.

Jason Patera

Illinois

Each day we teachers get to be magicians, scientists, storytellers, gurus, coaches, and artists. It's such a privilege to be a part of someone's life in this way—to have the opportunity to show young people that their imagination and motivation can create limitless paths and possibilities.

John Pritchett

Texas

It is inspiring and fulfilling for me to watch my students mature musically and individually through the district grade 6-12 music program. Hopefully through involvement in the school's music program students will be blessed with the lifelong love of music.

Brian Rawlin

Georgia

I don't teach; I simply answer students' most common question, "Why do I need to know this?" with personal stories, formulas, theories, and art. I value my students' opinions above my own, and make sure to get out of their way, so they may create a better life for themselves and others.

Jerry Reisig

Montana

The enthusiasm in which my students approach learning and their excitement upon mastering concepts is very inspiring. Every day I feel blessed that my students value me as a primary resource in their quest for understanding and knowledge in the field of physics.

Keven Renken

Florida

We laugh. We cry. We “rage against the dying of the light.” It is the sum and substance of growing up. It is the sum and substance of living. Together, we know the joy, beauty and mystery of this spinning planet. And I am honored, touched and moved by it.

Ann Robinson

Germany

I teach because I must—there is a gene—because it is so fun; because my students make me laugh every day; for students like Darren who are awesome and inspirational; for the students who declare “I can’t do math,” but after much pushing and cajoling, leave saying, “I can do math.”

Evelyn Rodriguez

Colorado

Teaching makes me an active part of those “magical moments” when students develop their minds, confidence, and understanding. Just as my high school speech teacher impacted me for life, I strive to influence my students’ quality of life by sharing my passion for learning and helping them embrace the arts.

Sheila Rulison

Oklahoma

Teaching is not for the faint of heart—it is for those with a passion for the subject matter and a heart filled with patience and cooperation. Teachers teach who they are, using open dialogue with their students for the maximum education benefits.

David Salter

South Carolina

For as long as I can remember, I have had a passion for teaching. There is no greater joy in the profession than seeing one’s students achieve and develop to their fullest potential. My motivation comes from students who show me their passion for learning as together we explore the fascinating science of biology.

Razmick Sarkissian

Wyoming

It is a great joy as an orchestra director to have this unique opportunity to infuse all disciplines of learning into one area of performance. Students are eager to see the inner tapestry of learning and are enthused more towards a better understanding of the concepts taught.

Timothy Scheffler

Wisconsin

My coaches defined my high school experience. Coaching debate, a disappearing activity, lets me open the same doors to others. My wife Kristin, a special education instructor, inspires me. I get diamonds like Valerie, who only need to be shined, whereas Kristin starts with uncut stone and produces the same results.

Auxiliadora Schiavone

New Jersey

Homeschooling was a unique and rewarding experience. Teaching became an extension of parenting. The moments I valued most were those moments when my children were so engaged in their learning that they didn’t want to stop. Their eyes would light up and their voices would be full of excitement.

Rebecca Shafer

Illinois

I teach because I like to learn. I teach because students reward me with laughter and appreciation and busy me daily with a multitude of problems. I teach because my personality, creativity, and knowledge base motivate and inspire future generations. I teach because I am needed.

Judith Shepherd

Pennsylvania

In the classroom, we make an effort to articulate the ponderous questions of life as presented in literature; then we attempt to better tolerate not knowing the answers—an exploration of the ambiguity and wonder we share through the written word. Thought I am not an elder, I smile each day as I embrace the mantra of Chaucer: “...and gladly would he learn and gladly teach.”

Diana Siliezar-Shields

Rhode Island

I often tell my students to find their passion in life and then to live it. For me, that passion is teaching science. I teach in a way that honors those educators who helped me to become who I am today. I teach to help students recognize their maximum potential.

Robert Slayton

Vermont

I am a teacher who loves to work with students and observe them as they begin to grasp a difficult concept—especially when they have been struggling and then reach the “aha” moment. There is nothing more exhilarating than seeing students challenge themselves and each other academically.

TEACHER RECOGNITION AWARDEES REFLECT ON TEACHING

Judith Smith

Maryland

I love reaching the minds of young people with great books and ideas; empowering their voices by showing them how to use language effectively to inform, to communicate, and to convey deep feeling through language; serving in a helping role a fascinating, diverse group who make up this country's future.

Steven Sorkin

Maryland

What a point of punctuation it has been to teach a Presidential Scholar! Henry's daily example asserted just what a primal appetite learning can be in the generation of the deeper humanity that is his context and legacy. I will incorporate his ways as barometers and beacons in my future approaches.

Jeffrey Stahlman

Ohio

I feel very fortunate to be with young people as they make a major life decision, where to attend college. It is great fun to help students mature, grow, and discover themselves. I have courtside seats as students dive into their future successes and I relish each minute.

Kenneth Stedman

Nevada

I start every year by telling my students, "I don't teach for today. I teach for your future." I tell them to think outside the book, to be creative and innovative. To teach, to inspire, to help mold their future is my passion. Their success is my motivation.

David Stover

Connecticut

I love teaching because it allows me to share my passion for physics with my students, share in their struggles as they seek to make sense of the concepts, and celebrate with them when they realize they now truly understand the "big idea."

Valerie Taylor

Texas

I love teaching. No other profession would give me the same joy. As I learn with my students, we discover how writing helps us see the world more vividly and how reading brings others' worlds to us. We create a community within our classroom that connects with communities beyond it.

Louise Thompson

Wisconsin

Teaching AP and Introductory Chemistry, my students have a wide range of aptitudes and goals. I look for the "light bulb". Then I have reached that student, no matter what level of understanding is the goal. Smiles follow light bulbs. Smiles keep me going when my day is challenging.

Marilyn Toalson

Missouri

Every day my students inspire me to seek knowledge, to question, and to laugh. I hope to inspire my students to view the world with a spirit of hope and joy, to seek wisdom, and to find passion. Together we search for truth, debate complex issues, and eventually will impact the world.

Tamás Ungár

Texas

Through the study of piano, the wonders of human character unfolds. While I am part of a chain of teachers whose duty is to hand down the traditions of classical music from generation to generation, the ultimate beauty of my profession is the nurturing of human creativity at its highest level.

David Veselka

Texas

A student described my course like this: "MrV teaches us how to make great photographs without telling us how to do it." His statement clarified my own uncertainties about teaching the creative process, and I've tried to remain true to the practice he described. Art is a voyage of discovery.

Tom Vitrano

Idaho

Students are gifts to the world. I use religion, philosophy, song, literature, history, science, jokes and everything I can get my hands on to try to help the students see that they are gifts to the world. Education is not only training for life, it is life.

Gretel von Barga

Washington

My greatest joys as a teacher are continuing to fulfill my desire to learn and encouraging curiosity in my students. I hope that my enthusiasm for biology and love of teaching foster in my students a life-long appreciation for the abundance and relevance of natural phenomena.

Janice Vote

Indiana

Teaching provides priceless moments of shared joy. I am privileged to work with extraordinary students who impress me daily with their ability, determination, and generosity. To be able to share my passion for French with them and to see joy in their faces when they succeed is inspirational.

Greg Warren

Massachusetts

Students push me to be better. They ask new and interesting questions as I try to help them consider the universe from different perspectives. Their enthusiasm makes me use new examples that are both humorous and mundane to explain important concepts. That is why science fascinates me. That is why I teach.

Adam Weiss

Vermont

I am motivated by the opportunity to help students become excited about learning biology, become proud of their achievements, and become well prepared for the academic challenges that lie ahead. I am enriched by my students' successes and their appreciation of their experiences in our biology class.

Karen Weires

Iowa

I strive to help my students learn not only how to find solutions to problems, but also how to accept and work through their mistakes. I know I am in the right profession when I walk out of school at the end of a day exhausted, but thinking, "I can't wait to do it all again tomorrow."

Lily Weiss

Texas

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." As a dance teacher I try to help my students realize their dreams while creating a rigorous and creative environment, motivating by example. My students inform my teaching and inspire me daily!

Benjamin Williams

Maryland

I believe in stories. One of my great joys is watching students—and my daughter—take on a story, live in it, and so engage with the world and ultimately with their own hearts. I love it when students make those connections between themselves and the story, because I know it means they will make them the rest of their lives.

Catherine Wojtkun

New Hampshire

Why do I love teaching? CHILDREN! And their passion for seeing outside the box, their zest for learning, their sensitivity, their laughter, their ability to bounce back from defeat and meet new challenges, and their blessings in allowing me to learn from them and share their journey to success!

Walter Wolfe

California

As a parent myself, I am reminded every day what an amazing honor it is to be entrusted with the education of someone's child. That responsibility challenges me every day to inspire my students to love learning and to live artfully.

Rebecca Woods

Kentucky

I love to be part of students' learning experiences. After twenty-five years of teaching, I become recharged when a student discovers his/her ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts. I am grateful for the many times when I have watched my students make choices that reflect high personal standards.

Amy Wopat

Washington, DC

"To know another language is to have a second soul" - Charlemagne, 742-814. As a foreign language teacher, I have the privilege of mentoring students as they develop their 'second soul.' It is inspiring to witness such profound growth and I am continually amazed at all that they accomplish.

Robert Wright

Florida

There are few moments in life that compare to witnessing a youth grasp a new concept and achieve what they felt impossible. This is why I teach. I want students to know that endless opportunities await them outside my classroom door.

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AND ITS PARTNERS

The Commission is a group of private citizens appointed by the President to select and honor the U.S. Presidential Scholars. Commissioners are selected from across the country, representing the fields of education, medicine, law, social services, business, and other professions. The Commissioners make the difficult choices of selecting Scholars from an initial pool of approximately 3,000 candidates who demonstrate exceptional accomplishments in academics and the arts, and an outstanding commitment to public service.

The Commission invites the U.S. Presidential Scholars and their Teachers to Washington, DC for National Recognition Week. Activities are funded through a public-private partnership of the Presidential Scholars Foundation and private corporate and philanthropic sources. As guests of the Commission, the Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other accomplished persons. Scholars also attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor and visit museums and monuments of the nation's capital.



Marina C. McCarthy

Chair

Dr. Marina C. McCarthy has over three decades of research, teaching, administrative, and consulting experience in education. She has also taught courses in education at Harvard and Brown Universities and at Boston College. In addition, Dr. McCarthy has supervised student teachers in the Brown University teacher training program and has been a case writer for a University-wide faculty development program run by the Harvard Business School. She has served as an Allston Burr Senior Tutor (resident academic dean) at Harvard College and as a Study Group Leader on educational policy and politics at Harvard's Institute of Politics. She has also taught in public and independent schools in the U.S. and Europe, and has served on a number of educational boards and committees including the MATCH Charter School in Boston. Dr. McCarthy currently holds a research appointment at Harvard University, from where she received an Ed.D. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy.



José Miguel Amaya

Member

Dr. José Amaya is currently the Director of Diversity for Hy-Vee, Inc., an employee-owned retail corporation operating 230 retail stores in eight Midwestern states. From 1997-2005, he served as an Assistant Professor of English and Latino Studies at Iowa State University where he conducted research and taught courses in American literature and Latino studies. During Dr. Amaya's tenure at Iowa State, he also served as the President of Humanities Iowa, the State's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Iowa Learns Education Council, an education council convened by former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack. Prior to his position at Iowa State University, he was an Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University. Dr. Amaya holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in English from UCLA.



Michael A. Caplin

Member

Michael A. Caplin is an attorney and President of Turtle Island Consulting, which provides strategic planning advice to the non-profit community. He has been involved in a wide array of non-profit projects including programs in performing arts, social services, education, and environmental stewardship. His non-profit experience includes serving for 11 years as the Director of Eastern Operations for Childhelp USA. He also has worked as a public defender, a federal prosecutor, an educator, an entertainment attorney, and a music producer. Mr. Caplin currently serves as Chairman of the Board and a member of the faculty of the Phoenix Project, a non-profit that educates and empowers emerging social entrepreneurs; in addition, he is President of the Board of the New York Center for Children, a non-profit free clinic providing care and treatment for abused children. Mr. Caplin holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College, a J.D. from the University Virginia Law School, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law School.



Martha A. Darling

Member

For the past decade, Martha Darling has consulted on education issues for the National Academy of Sciences and other nonprofits. She retired from The Boeing Company in Seattle, having held senior management assignments in 747 Program Management, Government Affairs, and Boeing's Corporate Offices where she supported the CEO on education policy. Previously, Ms. Darling was Vice President for Strategic Planning at Seattle-First National Bank and Executive Director of the Washington Business Roundtable's Education Study. She has served as a White House Fellow and Executive Assistant to Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal and as a Senior Legislative Aide to U.S. Senator Bill Bradley. Earlier, she was a free-lance consultant to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other international organizations for four years in Paris. Darling is a founding co-chair of Washtenaw County's Success by Six early childhood initiative and serves on a variety of other boards. She is a graduate of Reed College and of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.



I. King Jordan

Member

Dr. I. King Jordan was the first deaf President of Gallaudet University, the only university with all programs and services designed specifically for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. He first joined the faculty of Gallaudet's Department of Psychology in 1973, in 1983 he became Chair of the Department, and three years later he was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He served as the University's President from 1988-2006 and is presently President Emeritus. Dr. Jordan is a recipient of the U.S. Presidential Citizen's Medal and in 1990 was appointed as the Vice Chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; he was reappointed to this position in 1993. Dr. Jordan earned a B.A. in psychology from Gallaudet in 1970. The following year he earned an M.A., and in 1973 a Ph.D., both in psychology and both from the University of Tennessee.

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AND ITS PARTNERS



Colin Kippen

Member

Colin Kippen is currently Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Education Council, which aims to assess and coordinate innovative education programs for Native Hawaiians and make policy recommendations to improve the education and well being of Native Hawaiians. Mr. Kippen has worked most of his professional life as an advocate for Native Americans in a number of venues. He has served as Senior Counsel to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the U.S. Senate, Deputy Administrator for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chief Judge of the Suquamish Indian Tribe on the Port Madison Indian Reservation in Western Washington, Appellate Judge for several Indian tribes in Washington and Oregon, and trial attorney and Deputy Prosecutor in King County, Washington. Kippen is also the former Chairman of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation and Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee. Mr. Kippen holds a J.D. and a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.



Yvette Lewis

Member

Yvette Lewis is the founder and director of "So This is Opera," a program that introduces young audiences to the world of opera in performance, workshop and residency settings. She is also a lyric soprano who has performed extensively, including appearances with the Washington Opera, the Baltimore Opera, the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, the Baltimore Symphony, and at the Spoleto Festival in Melbourne, Australia. Ms. Lewis has almost fifteen years experience as an elementary general music teacher in the Baltimore City and Montgomery County, Maryland Public Schools. She also worked for a period as a staff assistant at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Lewis holds a Mus.B. from Howard University and is a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists. She is currently a teaching artist with the Maryland State Arts Council and the Strathmore Hall Performing Arts Center



Reginald Lewis

Member

Reginald Lewis recently completed a three-year term as the City Administrator for the City of East Orange, New Jersey, where he oversaw the complete day-to-day operations of all municipal services for 70,000 residents. From 2005 to 2006, Mr. Lewis was Executive Vice President at the United Way in Newark, New Jersey. He also previously served in senior management roles in New Jersey State Government from 2002 to 2005 as Special Assistant and Director of the Commissioner's Office of External Affairs in the Department of Human Services and as Special Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Abbott Implementation in the Department of Education. Mr. Lewis also spent nearly eight years serving as Program Assistant to the Director of the Urban Poverty Program of the Ford Foundation in New York City, Program Officer at the Victoria Foundation in Montclair, New Jersey, Program Officer for Education at the Joyce Foundation in Chicago, and Director of Policy and Program Development at the Fund for New Jersey. Mr. Lewis holds a B.A. in Urban Studies from Morehouse College, and a M.A. in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.



Sheldon Pang

Member

Sheldon Pang is currently a Vice Chairman of RBC Capital Markets, a major part of the Royal Bank of Canada's global business. From 2004-2006, he served as President of RBC Capital Markets Pacific Group, where he was involved in developing RBC's business in the Asian Pacific region. Prior to joining RBC, Mr. Pang spent twelve years with AIG Trading Group, first as a Vice President then as a Managing Director, providing services to international clients in commodities, foreign exchange, and fixed income trading. He started his career as a Research Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Pang has for years been involved in promoting educational causes, including the establishment of scholarships at MIT and Brown University, and supporting New York Huaxia Chinese School. Pang received an Sc.B. from Zhejiang University, an M.S. from Vanderbilt University, and an Sc.D. degree from MIT.



Srinija Srinivasan

Member

Srinija Srinivasan is Vice President and Editor in Chief at Yahoo!. Since joining the company as its fifth employee in 1995, Srinivasan has led a range of editorial and policy functions, beginning with the organization and evolution of the Yahoo! directory. She has overseen network editorial standards and original content development, guided the company's corporate responsibility arm, and directed policy issues including privacy and data use, advertising standards, youth safety, community guidelines, and accessibility. Prior to joining Yahoo!, Srinivasan was involved with the Cyc Project, a ten-year artificial intelligence effort to build an immense database of human commonsense knowledge. She chairs the Board of Trustees for SFJAZZ, a non-profit organization dedicated to jazz creation, presentation, and education. She is also a member of the 2000 class of Henry Crown Fellows at the Aspen Institute. She holds a B.S. with distinction from Stanford University in Symbolic Systems, and was honored as a Presidential Scholar in 1989.



Donald M. Stewart

Member

Donald M. Stewart is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy Studies where he has taught since 2005. He previously served as CEO and President of the Chicago Community Trust. Prior to joining the Trust, Stewart was a Senior Program Officer and Special Advisor to the President at the Carnegie Corporation of New York. For over 12 years, Mr. Stewart was President and CEO of the College Board, which provides SAT and Advanced Placement assessments to help students make the transition from high school to college. Stewart is also former President of Spelman College, the 129 year old historically black women's college in Atlanta. Stewart was a program officer in the Overseas Development Division of the Ford Foundation serving in Nigeria, Egypt and Tunisia. He is currently a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He earned a B.A. from Grinnell College and a M.A. from Yale University as well as Master and Doctoral degrees in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School.



Cynthia Telles

Member

Dr. Cynthia Ann Telles has been on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry since 1986. She is currently the Director of the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute Spanish-Speaking Psychosocial Clinic where she is responsible for managing the clinical operations of this model psychiatric clinic, as well as the training program, research, and budget. Among many corporate, non-profit, and public service board memberships, Dr. Telles was also appointed to the National Advisory Council of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the advisory group on Health Care Reform, and the Regional Selection Panel for the White House Fellows Program during the Clinton Administration. Dr. Telles received her B.A. from Smith College and doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Boston University.



Sarah Brown Wessling

Member, 2010 National Teacher of the Year

Wessling is the 60th National Teacher of the Year. She teaches English in tenth through twelfth grades at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa. A believer in engaging her students, she focuses on learner-centered education and encourages them by giving them a variety of assignments and showing them how their work is relevant to their lives and society today. A native of Winterset, Iowa, she has bachelor's degree in English Education and master's in English Literature from Iowa State University. Wessling has been a teacher for eleven years, and has been inspiring students at Johnston High School for ten. In 2005, she earned certification in English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is married to Tim Wessling and they have three children.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

The Presidential Scholars Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, is the sole entity authorized by the Commission on Presidential Scholars to expand and enhance the public-private partnership that makes the U. S. Presidential Scholars Program possible. The Foundation seeks to provide financial support for the program; develop and maintain an alumni society, the “Presidential Scholars Association”; and ensure the future ability of the Commission to recognize the outstanding young adults who are selected each year. In reaching out to individual donors as well as corporate and philanthropic America, the Foundation emphasizes the value of excellence in education and the national interest in encouraging high attainment by students in secondary school and after graduation. The members of this Foundation feel the U. S. Presidential Scholars Program is the highest national means to encourage new generations of students to reach for the stars. The Foundation continues to seek additional active members of its alumni society, its Board of Directors, and its various committees, in order to ensure future of this special program.

Each year the Foundation raises funds from public and private sources to provide housing, transportation, meals and above all, education and enrichment activities for the Scholars during the program’s annual recognition events in Washington, D.C. Each year’s agenda aims to provide Scholars with structured ways to make a difference for those in need in our Nation’s Capital; access to important national and international figures; and the opportunity to wrestle with issues that concern America and the world. Speakers, seminars and organized community service are essential components of this program. Through the years, Scholars have had the opportunity to meet with many distinguished individuals, including Justices of the Supreme Court, Senators and Congressmen, members of the President’s Cabinet and staff as well as the First Family, astronauts, poets, scientists, athletes, experts in international affairs, journalists, political strategists, and artists in a variety of disciplines. The generosity of the program’s supporters will help continue this great tradition, and connect successive classes of Scholars with each other and the program as mentors, peers, and colleagues.

Those interested in further information about the Foundation’s activities or charitable giving may visit the Foundation’s website at www.presidentialscholars.org.



PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

Honoring Outstanding Achievement by America's Youth

June 2010

Dear U.S. Presidential Scholars Class of 2010,

On behalf of my fellow members of the Presidential Scholars Foundation, our generous donors, and the U.S. Presidential Scholars Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to congratulate each of you on this most honored occasion. In honor of your outstanding accomplishments, we join President Obama, Secretary of Education Duncan, and the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars in recognizing you as the successful and motivated students that you are.

As you embark upon the next chapter of your lives, you should feel very proud and honored to bear the title of U.S. Presidential Scholar. You were chosen because of your discipline, perseverance, devotion to scholarly excellence, and passion for serving your communities. You represent the vast potential of America's youth, and we encourage you to reach back and continue inspiring others as you pursue your dreams.

Along with the Presidential Medallion, you've also been given life membership in the U.S. Presidential Scholars family. We hope that National Recognition Week will help connect you with like-minded, results-oriented alumni who have also received the Presidential Medallion. We trust that National Recognition Week gives you the motivation to join the active members of the Presidential Scholars Association, which invests in future generations of U.S. Presidential Scholars.

In 2014, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Our goal is to have established a \$1 million endowment fund to ensure the longevity of this distinguished honor. To learn more, please visit our website at: www.presidentialscholars.org.

Each of you embodies our country's hope for the future, and you possess the confidence to make our country and the world a better place. We wish you good health, peace and happiness.

Again, we are so very proud of you. Cherish the moment and the memories.

Sincerely,

James E. Farmer
President



MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James E. Farmer, President

*Avery W. Gardiner, Vice President for
Alumni Relations (1993 Scholar, ME)*

Ralph Jahr, Secretary-Treasurer

Matthew T. Anestis (1991 Scholar, CT)

Christina DePaul

James M. Dubin

Susan J. Ganz

Aris Melissaratos

Sharon Sayles Belton

YoungArts

YoungArts is the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA). The program's mission is to identify emerging artists, provide educational enrichment and assistance in their pursuit of the arts, and to raise the appreciation for and support of the arts in American society.

Dedicated to inspiring and nurturing young artists, YoungArts was founded in 1981 by businessman and visionary, the late Ted Arison, and his wife Lin. YoungArts is committed to identifying the next generation of emerging artists.

The YoungArts program reaches students in every state and contributes to the cultural vitality of the nation by investing in the artistic development of thousands of gifted artists in nine disciplines in the visual, literary and performing arts. YoungArts is open to high school seniors and other 17-18-year-old artists. Finalists share in an awards package valued up to \$900,000, including \$500,000 in monetary awards. In addition, all YoungArts applicants are eligible for \$3 million in scholarship opportunities from leading universities and colleges through automatic placement on YoungArts' Scholarship List Service. Over the last 29 years, YoungArts has honored over 16,000 young artists with more than \$6 million in awards and nearly \$84 million in college scholarship opportunities.

YoungArts alumni go on to become leading professionals in their fields. Alumni include Emmy nominated actress Vanessa Williams, three-time Tony Award nominee Raúl Esparza, star of HBO's *Entourage* Adrian Grenier, Warner Brothers Recording Artist Josh Groban, Executive Director of the American Ballet Theatre Rachel Moore, and internationally-acclaimed multi-media artist Doug Aitken.

At the request of The Commission on Presidential Scholars, which is appointed by the President of the United States, YoungArts serves as the exclusive nominating agency for U.S. Presidential Scholars selected on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in the performing, literary and visual arts. YoungArts selects up to 60 YoungArts finalists annually as nominees. The Commission ultimately names up to 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts who are honored by the White House each June. The celebration honoring the 2010 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts includes a special exhibition featuring works at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

777 Brickell Avenue, Suite 370 1.800.970.ARTS (2787)
Miami, FL 33131 305.377.1140
www.youngarts.org 305.377.1149 fax

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE ARTS
YOUNGARTS

June 2010

Dear U.S. Presidential Scholars,

On behalf of YoungArts, the core program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, congratulations on all of your incredible achievements. Each one of you has demonstrated a dedication to excellence that has led you to this exceptional moment in your lives, and will continue to serve you and our nation as you fulfill your role as the next generation of great American leaders.

It is the distinct honor of YoungArts to operate as the exclusive nominating agency to the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars for the distinction of Presidential Scholars in the Arts. The Commission's role, advocating and identifying excellence in the arts alongside academics, sends a strong message to our country that the arts are essential to our future, to America's cultural landscape and to our strength as a nation.

I hope you will all marvel at the remarkable talents of the Presidential Scholars in the Arts, who have put together an incredible performance and exhibition, showcased at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. These gifted artists have proven themselves to be the most talented young artists in the nation; I hope that you will take pleasure in what they have created.

Sincerely,



James M. Dubin
Chairman, Board of Trustees
YoungArts



2010 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM BENEFACTORS

The Commission on Presidential Scholars and the Presidential Scholars Foundation gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by:

Sponsors

President: Gifts of \$75,000 or more

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U.S. Department of Education
YoungArts

Scholar: Gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

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Mr. Matthew Anestis and Ms. Gillian Moore
The Chubb Corporation
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Mr. Michael White
Ms. Katherine Widland
Mr. Robert Woo
Ms. Michelle Wu
Ms. Heidi Yeh
Dr. Yiliang Zhu
Mr. Naupaka Zimmerman
Glenallen Elementary School

With special appreciation to the following institutions for their partnership:

The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
The Smithsonian American
Art Museum

We thank all of the program's supporters for their generosity.



June 1, 2010

Ally Financial Inc.
1177 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036



To the 2010 Presidential Scholars:

Congratulations on behalf of Ally Financial for achieving the high honor of being named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Having distinguished yourselves by your commitments to excellence, service and leadership in your schools and communities, you have earned recognition by the Office of the President of the United States. As a proud sponsor of the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, Ally Financial applauds your accomplishments and the choices you have made to fulfill your potential and to use your strengths and talents to benefit others.

As representatives of a diverse pool of interests, skills and capabilities, you are the pace-setters for your generation. By bestowing upon you the title of U.S. Presidential Scholar, the White House is both celebrating your achievements and presenting you as a model of scholarship and citizenship for all American youth. Many will find inspiration from your triumphs and encouragement from your dedication to worthy pursuits.

You already have demonstrated notable discipline and leadership in your communities. As you continue to excel and strive to fulfill your potential, consider those around you who may need encouragement to press on and fulfill their potential. As U.S. Presidential Scholars, you are poised to teach and uplift individuals and communities. We at Ally Financial are confident that you will leave an indelible mark of productivity and innovation wherever you go, yet we hope that you are best known for your generosity of spirit and service to others.

We are proud of you and wish you the best as you look forward to a bright future.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Carpenter
Chief Executive Officer
Ally Financial Inc.

ALUMNI GREETINGS TO THE CLASS OF 2010

Brian Gongol

*1997 Scholar, Iowa
Partner, DJ Gongol & Associates;
Talk-Show Host, WHO-AM, Des Moines, Iowa*

Congratulations! As you commence into exciting times ahead, remember these three things:

Ideas matter. Have many and seek more. America needs innovators and entrepreneurs more than ever. Lasting success is a matter of getting the little things right with mind-numbing consistency.

Enjoy the remaining years of your education in school. As your predecessor Scholars, we look forward to learning beside you as you continue that education beyond school.

Bradford W. Lee, M.D., M.Sc.

*2000 Scholar, Hawaii
Ophthalmology Resident, Bascom
Palmer Eye Institute / UM
Miller School of Medicine*

Aloha, Scholars. Congrats on joining the family of Presidential Scholars, and I hope you really revel in every moment of your weekend together. The fellow scholars you meet this weekend may be your classmates and friends for years to come, and you will cross paths time and time again in life. Have fun, say "Hi" to the President and First Lady for us, and continue to dream big in everything you do.

Nick Burjek

*2004 Scholar, Illinois
Vanderbilt University School
of Medicine, Class of 2012*

Congratulations to all the 2010 Scholars. The people of this nation are proud of you, its future leaders. Remember the people you meet this week; you'll be working together again someday!

Ben Kleinman

*1993 Scholar, Georgia
Attorney at Law, Knobbe Martens*

Mazel Tov on all you've accomplished so far: enjoy this week of recognition and reward! For me, the week was a blur: names and activities and performances and speakers... try to relax and savor it. The Kennedy Center event will be amazing, and the people you're with will be impressive. The week will be over all too fast. Some of the friendships, however, will last forever. Well done to you all!

Betsy Cooper

*2000 Scholar, New York
Yale Law School, 2012*

Congratulations on becoming a U.S. Presidential Scholar! The friendships I've made, and the independence and confidence gained from visiting Washington a decade ago, have carried me through undergraduate to a doctorate and beyond. I hope you gain as much from the program as I did.

Jennifer Riordan

*1999 Scholar, Texas
Project Development
Engineer, Ameresco*

Congratulations! Welcome to the Presidential Scholars, and enjoy your week!

Dave Tabb

*1992 Scholar, Missouri
Assistant Professor,
Vanderbilt University*

This week may feel like your zenith, but just wait until you see what comes next. May you find an abundance of joys in college!

Richard Senechal, A.I.A.

*1965 Scholar, North Dakota
Senior Vice President,
Facilities, Loews Hotels*

You have reached the edge of a great precipice. Whether you fall into the void or soar is in your hands. Spread your wings. Don't look down. Glory in the rush of the wind.

Melisa W. Lai Becker, M.D.

*1990 Scholar, Pennsylvania
Attending physician in
Emergency Medicine,
Cambridge Health Alliance;
Medical Toxicologist, Beth Israel
Deaconess Medical Center and
Children's Hospital; Instructor,
Harvard Medical School*

Congratulations on this milestone (graduation) and all your achievements. Enjoy Recognition Week, and if you haven't started banking up some sleep yet, try to get some in now!

Matt Baglini

*2009 Scholar, Rhode Island
Midshipman, United States Navy*

Hello and congratulations, Class of 2010! You've worked hard to get here, so play hard with the rest of your time. Enjoy the convention, make friends, take chances, and don't stop succeeding.

Mary Ford

*1992 Scholar, Minnesota
Manager of Education Programs,
National Audubon Society*

I'm so excited for you—grand adventures lie ahead. Treasure this network of scholars for the rest of your life and stay in touch. And seek out what makes you come alive; what the world needs most is people who are alive in delight and commitment.

Scotty Nowlin

*1988 Scholar, Nevada
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF*

Congratulations on your hard work and this recognition! Celebrate with your family and friends, then take a deep breath and dive in to your future with your whole heart and mind and soul and strength. Good luck and God Bless!

Lynn (Chen) Jeffers, M.D.

*1989 Scholar, California
Plastic Surgeon; Board of
Directors, American Society
of Plastic Surgeons; Board of
Directors, California Society
of Plastic Surgeons; Board of
Governors, Ventura County
Medical Association; Chair-elect,
California Medical Association
Young Physician Section*

Congratulations on your achievements! National Recognition Week is such a memorable experience. I am particularly partial as a past Advisor, Senior Advisor, and Commissioner Liaison, since I have had the opportunity to meet five years of Presidential Scholars and watch them accomplish great things. Take time to get to know your fellow Presidential Scholars and to enjoy the many exclusive activities and opportunities during this week. Keep in touch with the other excellent people you meet, and you will be amazed at what they and you will do. You have started on an excellent path; now take yourself and this country forward to a brighter future. Good luck to all of you in the future!

Thomas Ankenbauer

*2009 Scholar, Michigan
Cadet, United States
Military Academy*

Congratulations on your current success and recognition—you are truly America's best and brightest of this generation. Your past achievements have demonstrated that you are all capable of positively influencing our nation; the only question is, will you? All eyes are on you.

Clara Shih

*2000 Scholar, Illinois
CEO, Hearsay Labs; Author*

Congratulations and welcome to the Scholar community! Open your mind, soak it all in, and soar high!

Andy Grogan-Kaylor

*1983 Scholar, Wisconsin
Associate Professor of Social
Work, University of Michigan*

Congratulations on your wonderful achievement! Becoming a Presidential Scholar is one of my favorite memories and still a source of inspiration. Enjoy your time in Washington, and don't forget to take lots of pictures!

Eric Schoenberg, M.D.

*1980 Scholar, Georgia
CEO, ECS Consulting, Inc.*

Welcome to the Presidential Scholar Family. On behalf of the Presidential Scholar Alumni of Greater Kansas City, "Congratulations", and I look forward to meeting you in person.

Yuen-Jong Liu, M.D.

*2000 Scholar, Massachusetts
PGY-1 Resident,
Department of Surgery
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical
Center, Harvard Medical School*

Congratulations for the hard work and dedication that has culminated in your award! As endorsed by President Clinton, whom I met in my year, you should strive "to have dreams that are both timely and timeless, to try to live [your] dreams knowing that life's real regrets are more rooted in not trying than in not succeeding, and to find joy in the effort." Best wishes in your future endeavors!

John Zhou

*2006 Scholar, Michigan
Senior, Harvard University*

To the high achievers and polymaths of the Class of 2010: Salutations and congratulations on your many accomplishments in the journey of Life! After years of breaking the curve on tests, performing as virtuoso musicians, and organizing extracurricular activities, pause. And pat yourself on the back while basking in the glow of your successes. College, or whatever lies next for you, will come soon enough, so enjoy the moment and remember to thank all those who helped you become who you are today. Know that your talent and hard work has opened up a world of possibilities, and one of your greatest challenges and greatest opportunities down the road will be to choose that path you are most passionate about.

Hua Wang

*1999 Scholar, Nevada
Law Student, Northwestern
University School of Law*

Congratulations! I am so excited about the journey on which you are about to embark. I wish you lots of success as you continue to build your life's dreams.

Alexandra Ocampo

*1994 Scholar, Rhode Island
Human Resources Business
Partner, Target Corporation*

Bienvenidos! Congratulations on your extraordinary achievements and welcome to the Presidential Scholar family! If I could offer you any advice, it would be... don't judge yourself against the accomplishments or paths of your fellow Scholars. You have been honored because you have been committed to your own unique talents. Enjoy meeting new people and know that you are adding to their experiences as they are adding to yours. Best of luck, and forge your path fearlessly every day.

STAFF & ADVISORS



Simone Miranda Olson

Acting Executive Director



Amanda Berbert

*Exec Advisor, 2007 Scholar (UT)
Senior, Brigham Young University.
Major: Neuroscience.*



Kirsten Adam

*Advisor, 2008 Scholar (IA)
Junior, University of Notre Dame.
Major: Biological Sciences.*



Jane Ball

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (LA)
Sophomore, Tulane University.
Major: Cell and Molecular Biology.*



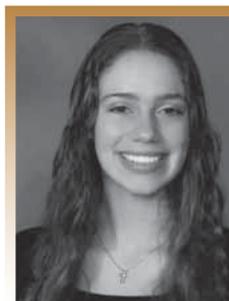
Caryn Grimstead

Program Manager



Shalin Patel

*Exec Advisor, 2007 Scholar (TX)
B.A., Rice University.
Dual Major: Biochemistry
and Cell Biology.*



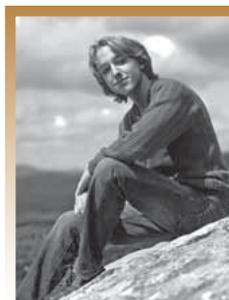
Kristina Bohl

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (CA)
Sophomore, Stanford University.
Major: Electrical Engineering.*



Andrew Chael

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (NM)
Sophomore, Carleton College.
Major: Undeclared.*



Christopher Fitzhugh

*Advisor, 2008 Scholar (VT)
Junior, Franklin W. Olin
College of Engineering.
Major: Robotics Engineering.*



Kelly Fox

*Advisor, 2008 Scholar (NH)
Junior, Brown University.
Major: Biology.*



Abhinav Golla

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (TX)
Sophomore, Stanford University.
Major: Undeclared.*



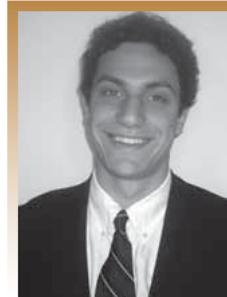
Booyeon Han

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (AZ)
Sophomore, Princeton University.
Major: Undeclared.*



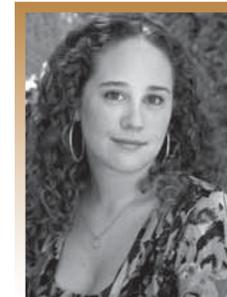
Stephen Henrich

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (IA)
Junior, Simpson College.
Triple Major: Biology,
Mathematics and Biochemistry.*



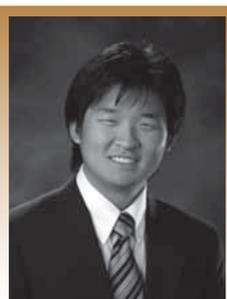
Alexander Katz

*Advisor, 2008 Scholar (NH)
Sophomore, Princeton University.
Major: Undeclared.*



Julia Kellman

*Advisor, 2009 Scholar (CA)
Sophomore, Washington
University in St. Louis.
Major: Philosophy.*



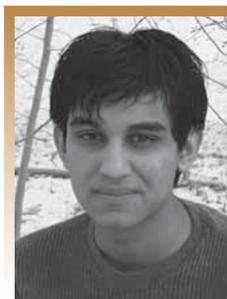
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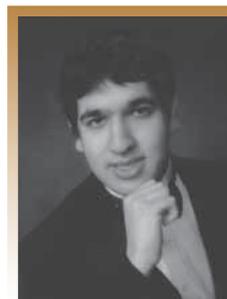
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